



JAGANNATHA OF PURI

DREAMT BY A KING, SCULPTED BY THE GODS

Vol 709





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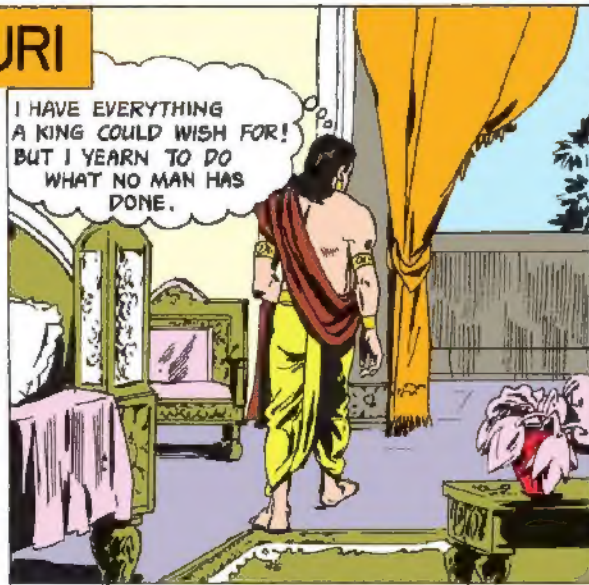
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JAGANNATHA OF PURI

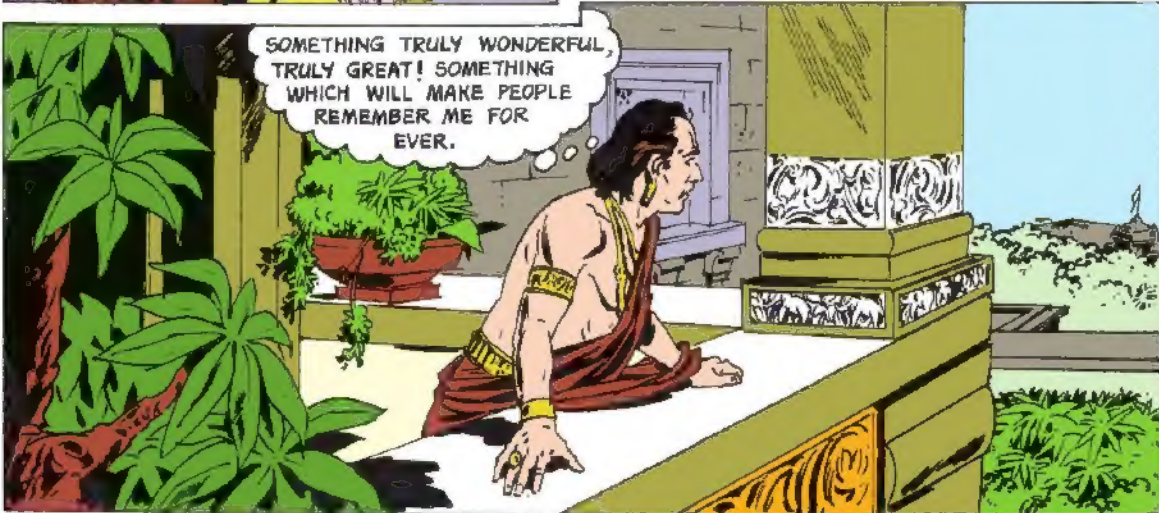
LONG LONG AGO, KING INDRADYUMNA OF THE SUN DYNASTY RULED OVER UTKAL*. HE HAD CONQUERED MANY LANDS AND WON GREAT FAME, BUT STILL HE WAS NOT HAPPY.



I HAVE EVERYTHING A KING COULD WISH FOR! BUT I YEARN TO DO WHAT NO MAN HAS DONE.



SOMETHING TRULY WONDERFUL, TRULY GREAT! SOMETHING WHICH WILL MAKE PEOPLE REMEMBER ME FOR EVER.



YES, I KNOW! I WILL BUILD A TEMPLE — A MONUMENT TO GOD. IT SHALL BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL TEMPLE ON EARTH!



BUT MY BEAUTIFUL TEMPLE MUST HAVE AN EQUALLY BEAUTIFUL IMAGE. WHERE WILL I GET SUCH AN IMAGE?



HIS QUESTION WAS ANSWERED THAT NIGHT IN A DREAM.

O KING, BEHOLD THIS HILL! IT IS NAMED NILACHALA. ON THIS HILL IS A CAVE.



INSIDE THE CAVE YOU WILL FIND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IMAGE EVER SEEN OF NILAMADHAV — THE BLUE-COLOURED KRISHNA.



I'VE FOUND HIM! NILAMADHAV — THE GOD WHO IS BLUE IN COLOUR! HE SHALL BE THE ONE TO GRACE MY TEMPLE.



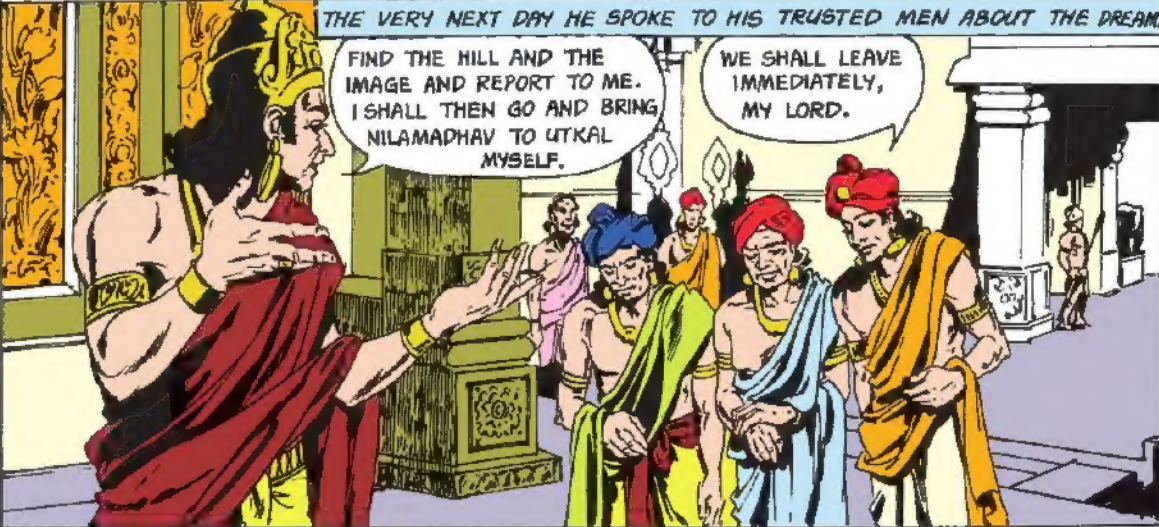
BUT... WHERE IS NILACHALA HILL? WHERE DO I LOOK FOR IT?



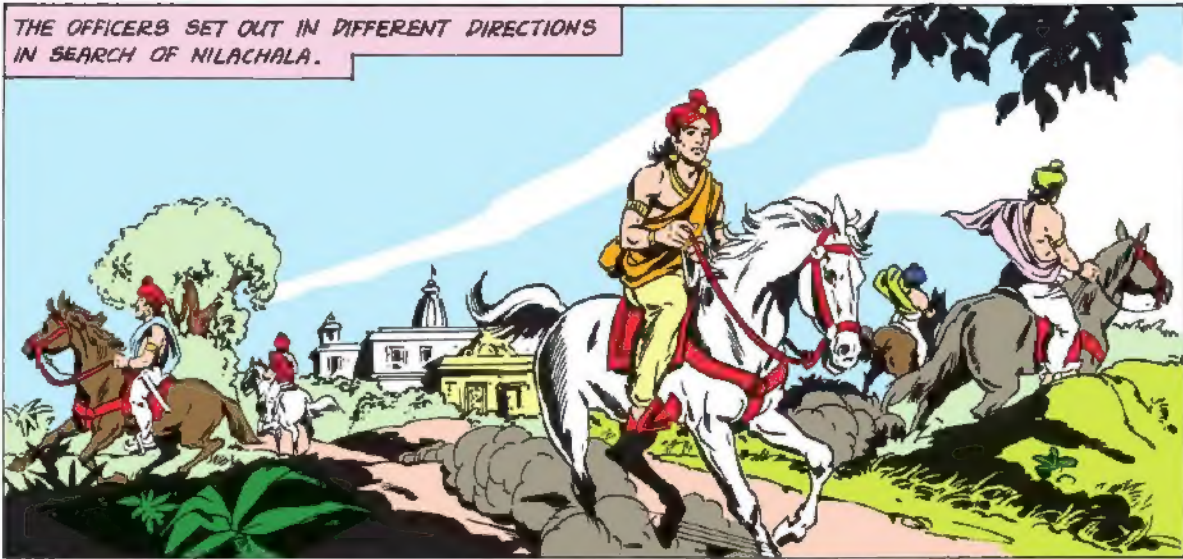
THE VERY NEXT DAY HE SPOKE TO HIS TRUSTED MEN ABOUT THE DREAM.

FIND THE HILL AND THE IMAGE AND REPORT TO ME. I SHALL THEN GO AND BRING NILAMADHAV TO UTKAL MYSELF.

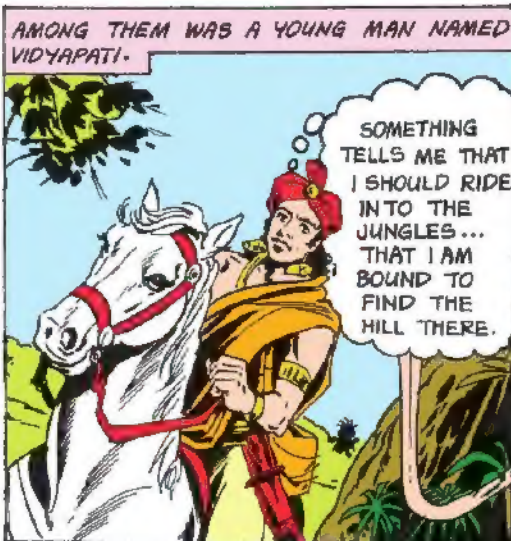
WE SHALL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY, MY LORD.



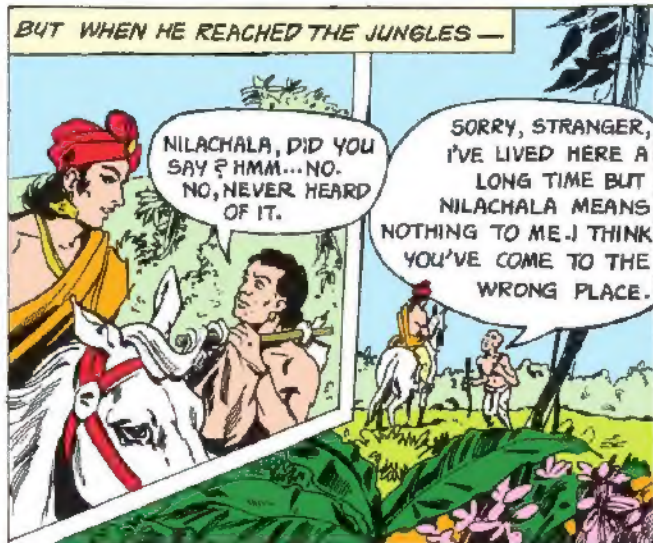
THE OFFICERS SET OUT IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS
IN SEARCH OF NILACHALA.



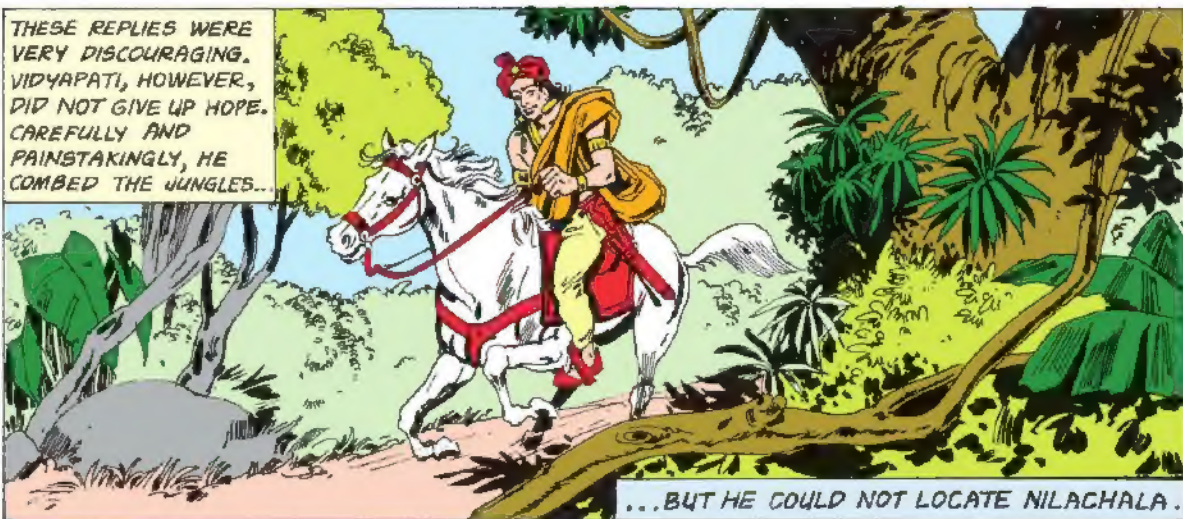
AMONG THEM WAS A YOUNG MAN NAMED
VIDYAPATI.

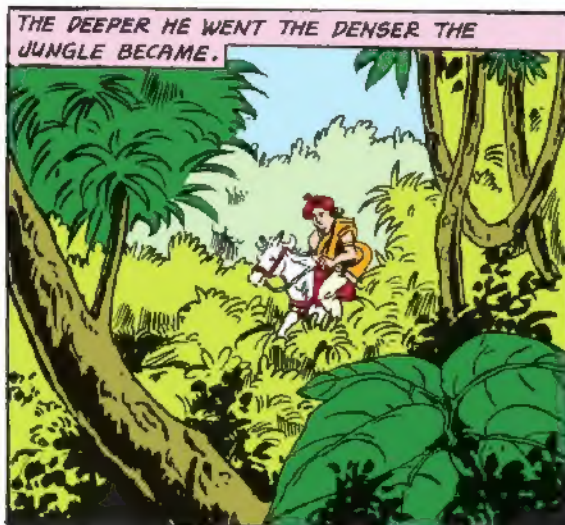
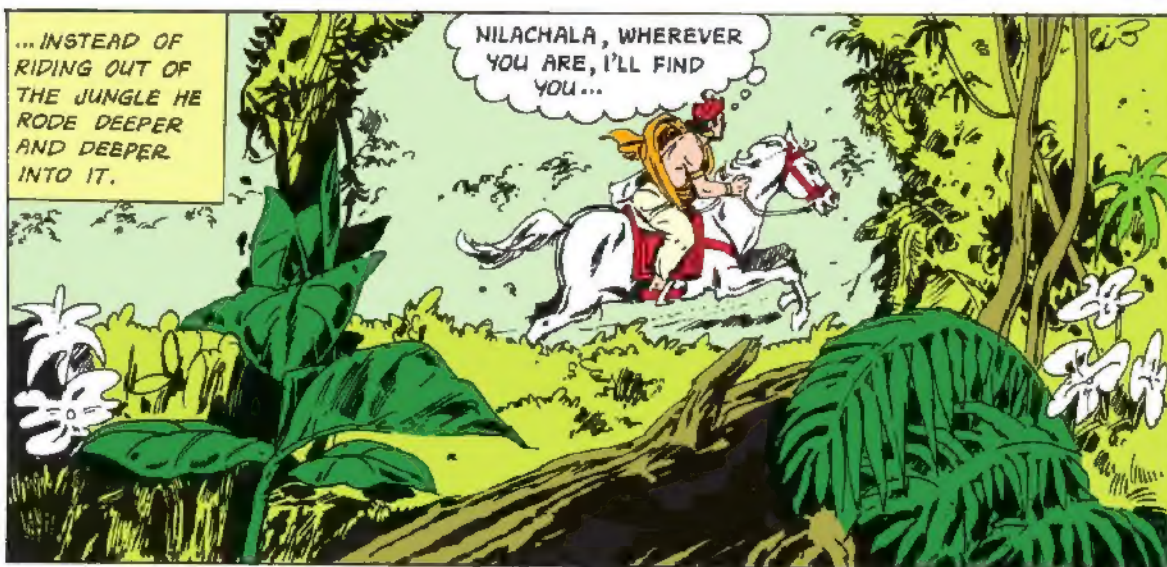
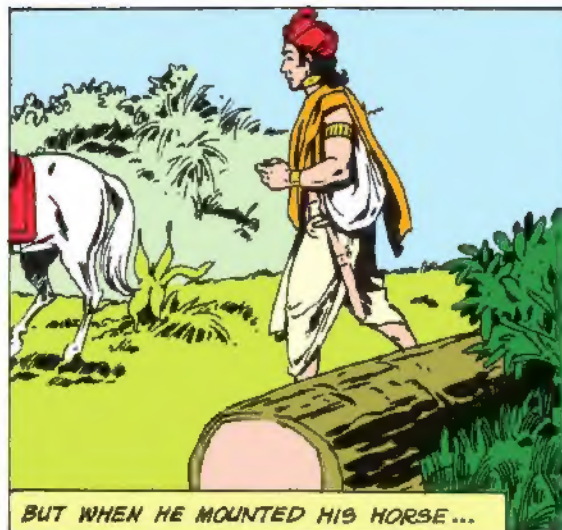
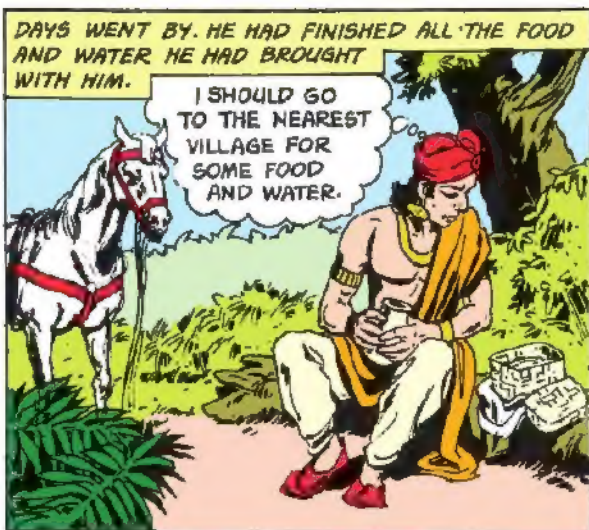


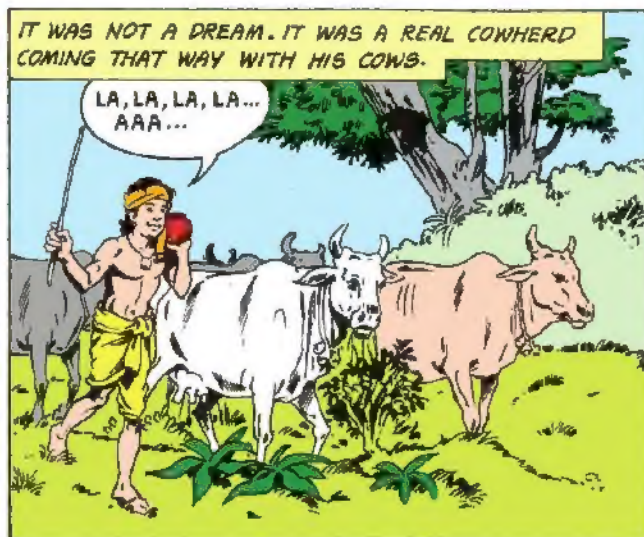
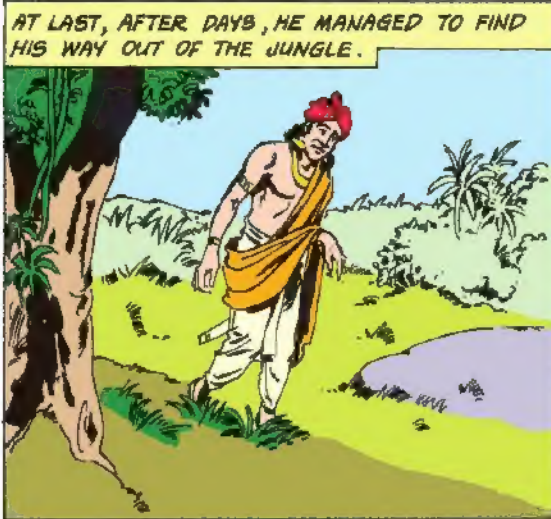
BUT WHEN HE REACHED THE JUNGLES —

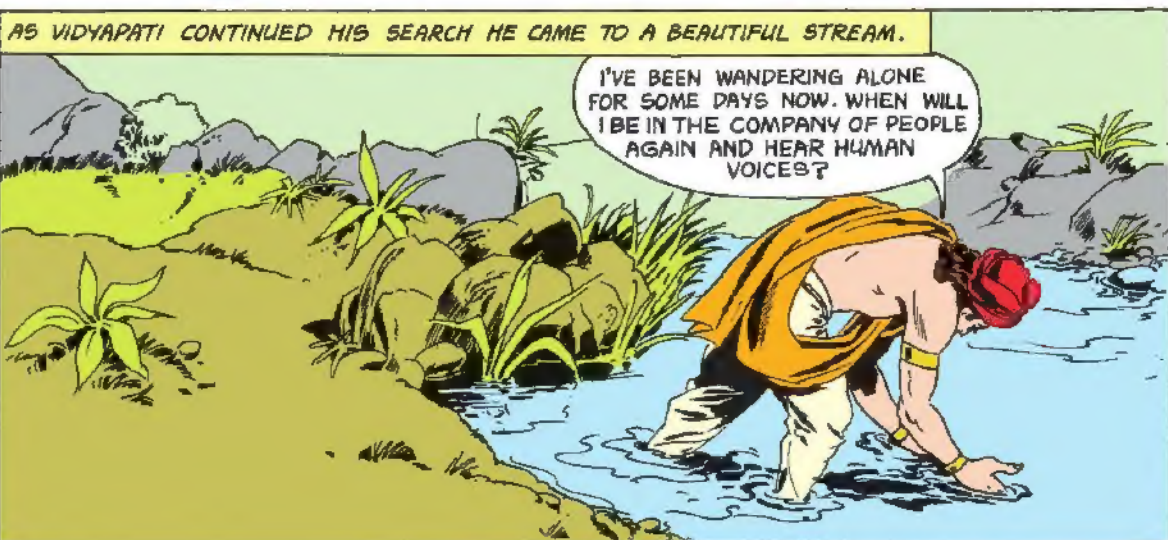
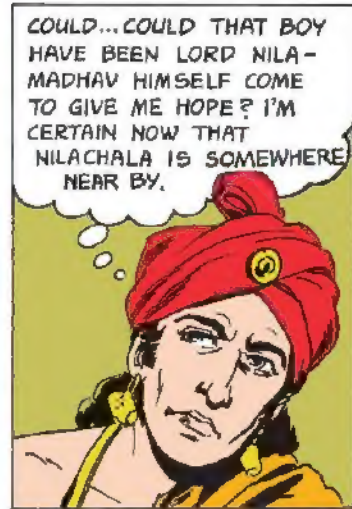


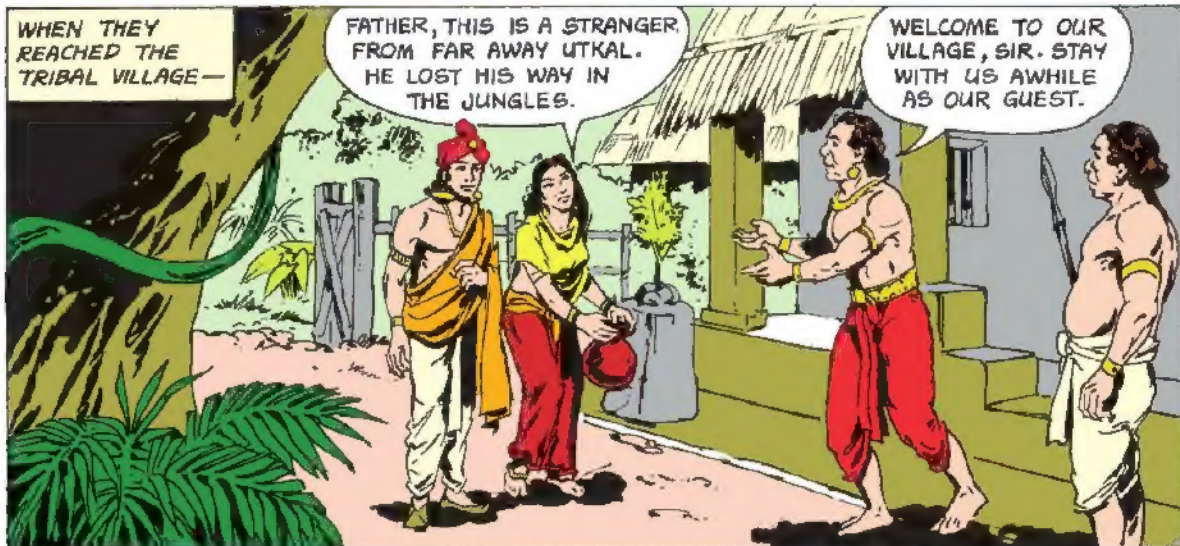
THESE REPLIES WERE
VERY DISCOURAGING.
VIDYAPATI, HOWEVER,
DID NOT GIVE UP HOPE.
CAREFULLY AND
PAINSTAKINGLY, HE
COMBED THE JUNGLES...











VIDYAPATI, AFTER HIS DAYS OF LONELY WANDERING, WAS ONLY TOO GLAD TO STAY WITH THE SAVARAS.



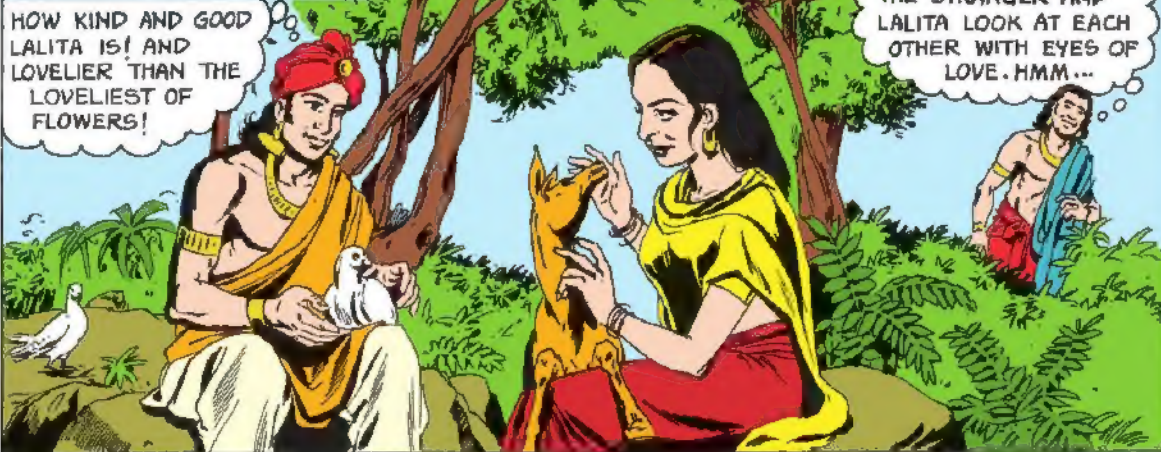
WHAT HOSPITABLE PEOPLE THEY ARE!



SHOULD I TELL THEM ABOUT MY SEARCH FOR NILAMADHAV? NOT YET, PERHAPS.

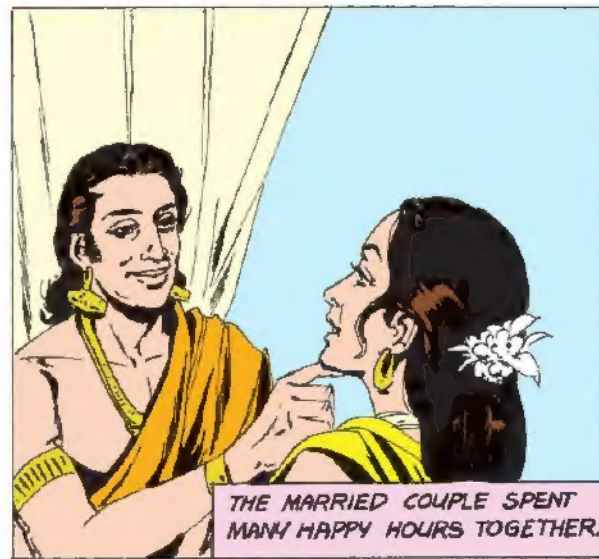
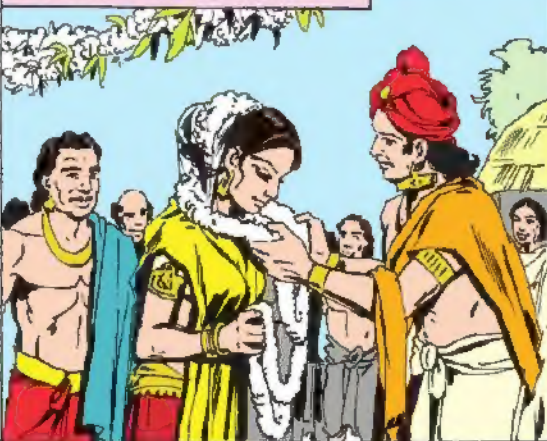
SOON VIDYAPATI'S GROWING LOVE FOR THE SAVARAS BEGAN TO CENTRE UPON THEIR CHIEF'S DAUGHTER — YOUNG LALITA.

HOW KIND AND GOOD LALITA IS! AND LOVELIER THAN THE LOVELIEST OF FLOWERS!



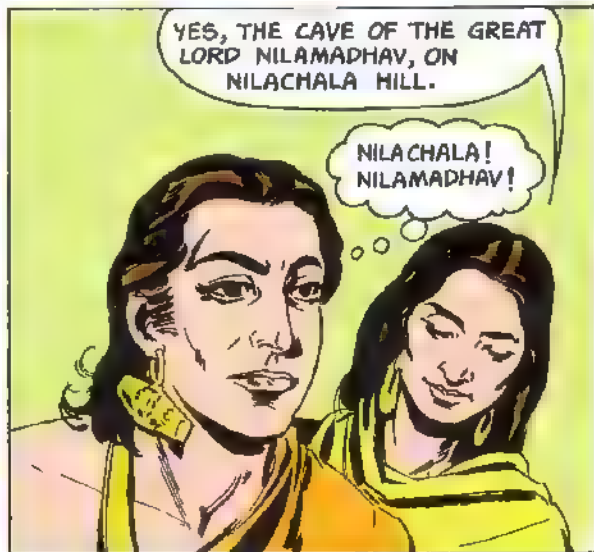
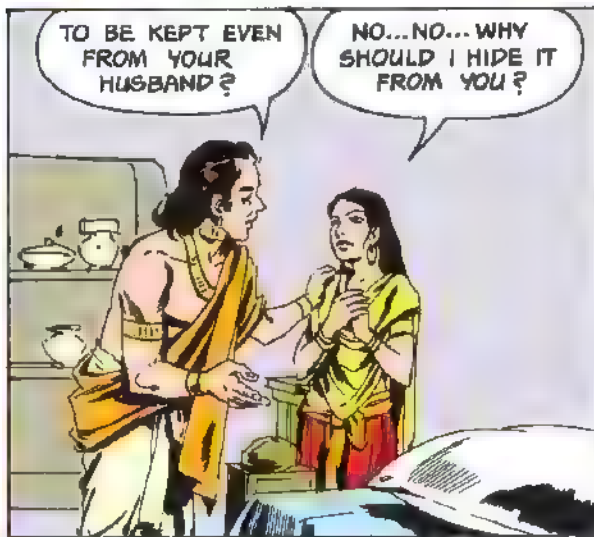
THE STRANGER AND LALITA LOOK AT EACH OTHER WITH EYES OF LOVE. HMM...

WHEN VIDYAPATI AND LALITA EXPRESSED THEIR WISH TO BE MARRIED, VISHVAVASU HEARTILY GAVE HIS CONSENT AND HIS BLESSINGS. AND SOON —



THE MARRIED COUPLE SPENT MANY HAPPY HOURS TOGETHER.

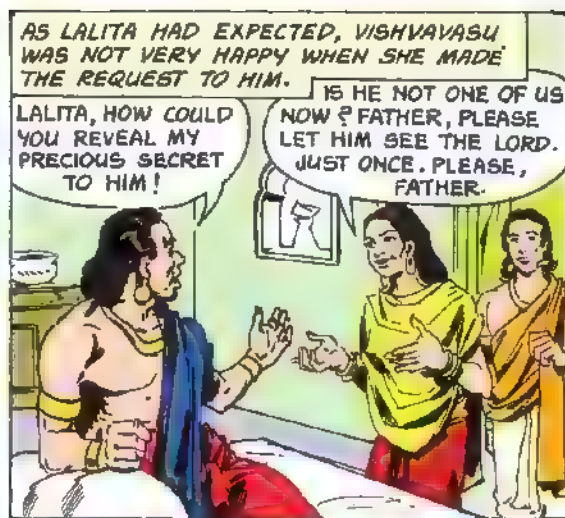
IT WAS AROUND THAT TIME THAT VIDYAPATI NOTICED SOMETHING WHICH INTRIGUED HIM.





DEAR ONE, PLEASE ASK YOUR FATHER TO TAKE ME TO THE CAVE OF NILAMADHAV.

OH! I DON'T THINK HE WILL AGREE. BUT I'LL ASK HIM.



AS LALITA HAD EXPECTED, VISHVAVASU WAS NOT VERY HAPPY WHEN SHE MADE THE REQUEST TO HIM.

LALITA, HOW COULD YOU REVEAL MY PRECIOUS SECRET TO HIM!

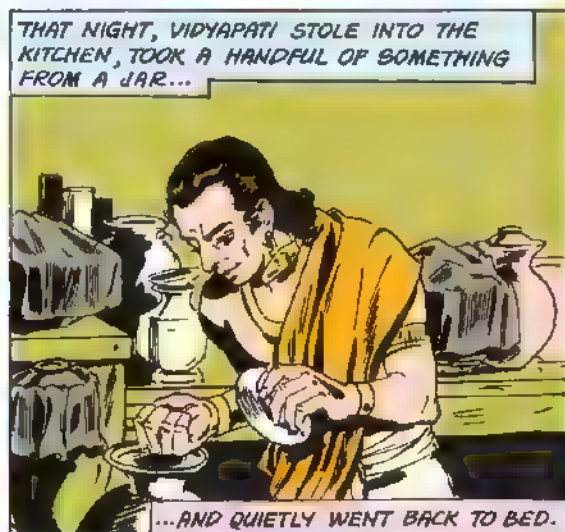
IS HE NOT ONE OF US NOW? FATHER, PLEASE LET HIM SEE THE LORD. JUST ONCE. PLEASE, FATHER.



LALITA'S PLEADINGS FINALLY WORKED.

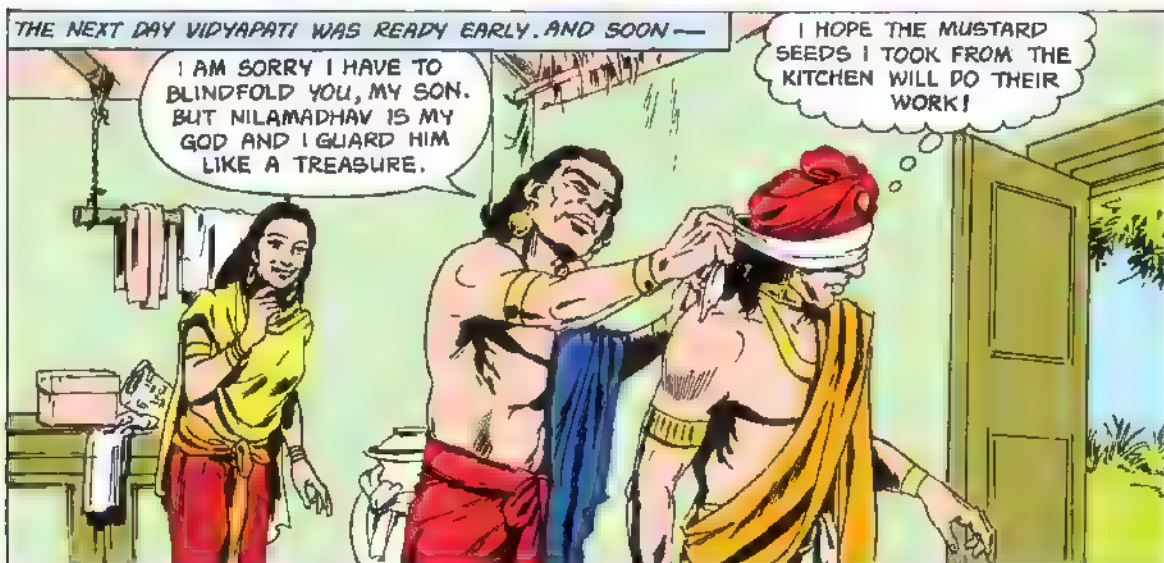
ALL RIGHT, I WILL TAKE YOU, VIDYAPATI. BUT BLINDFOLDED.

BLINDFOLDED? BUT I MUST KNOW THE WAY TO NILACHALA. YES... I THINK I KNOW WHAT TO DO...



THAT NIGHT, VIDYAPATI STOLE INTO THE KITCHEN, TOOK A HANDFUL OF SOMETHING FROM A DAR...

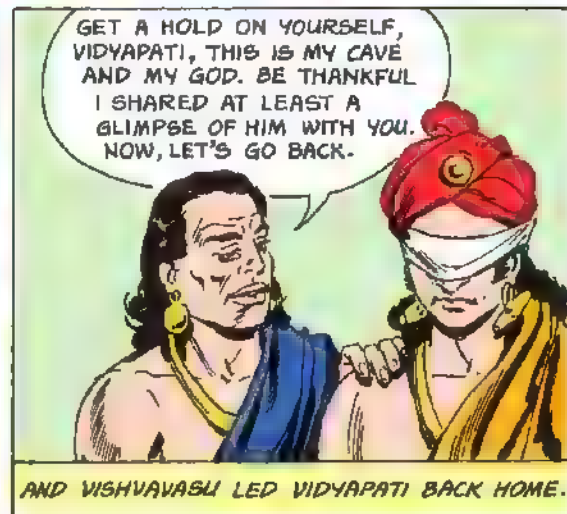
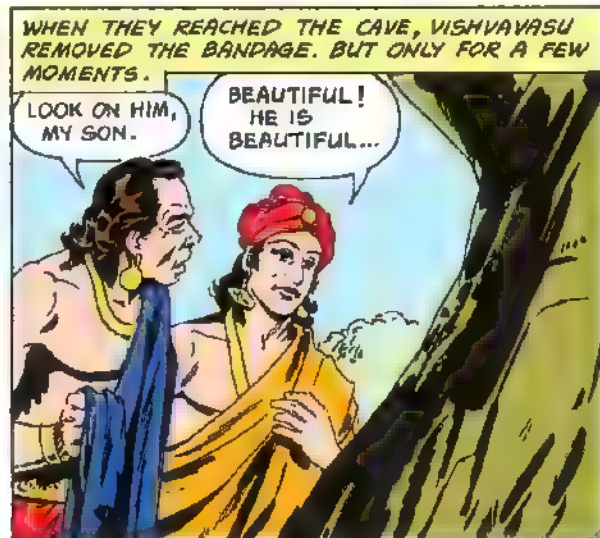
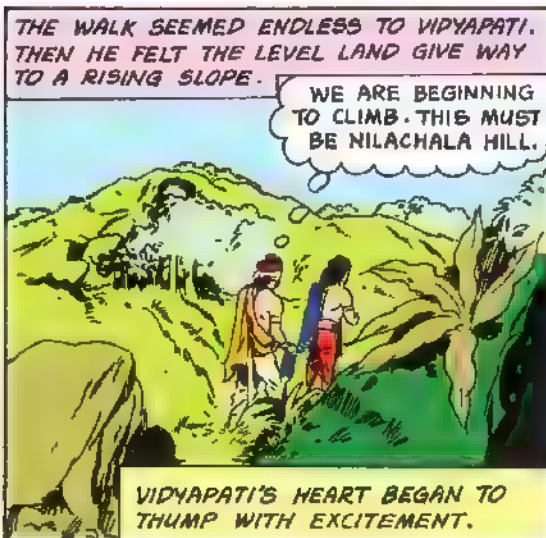
...AND QUIETLY WENT BACK TO BED.



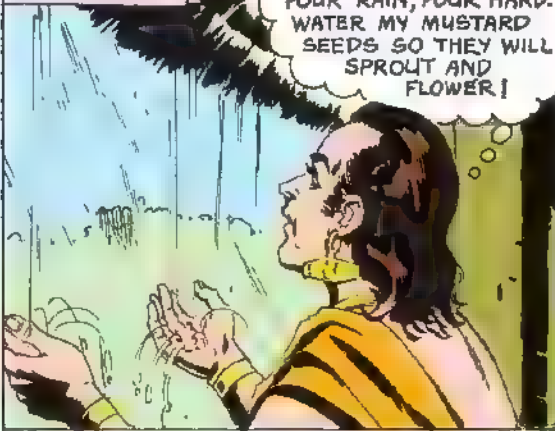
THE NEXT DAY VIDYAPATI WAS READY EARLY. AND SOON —

I AM SORRY I HAVE TO BLINDFOLD YOU, MY SON. BUT NILAMADHAV IS MY GOD AND I GUARD HIM LIKE A TREASURE.

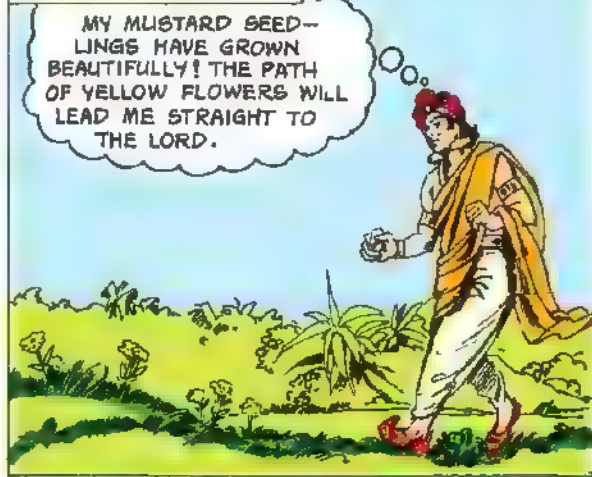
I HOPE THE MUSTARD SEEDS I TOOK FROM THE KITCHEN WILL DO THEIR WORK!



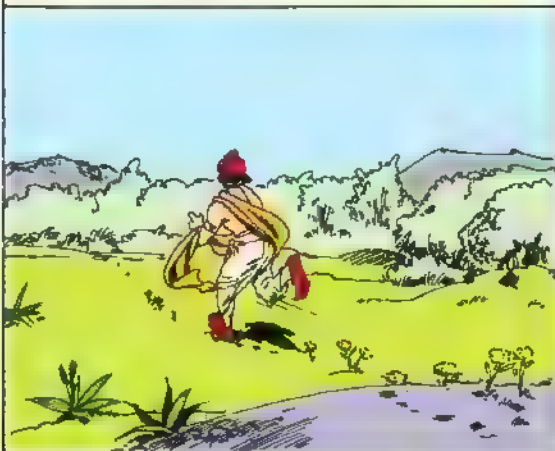
BUT VIDYAPATI DID NOT HAVE TO WAIT LONG TO SEE THE IMAGE AGAIN FOR THE RAINS SOON SET IN.



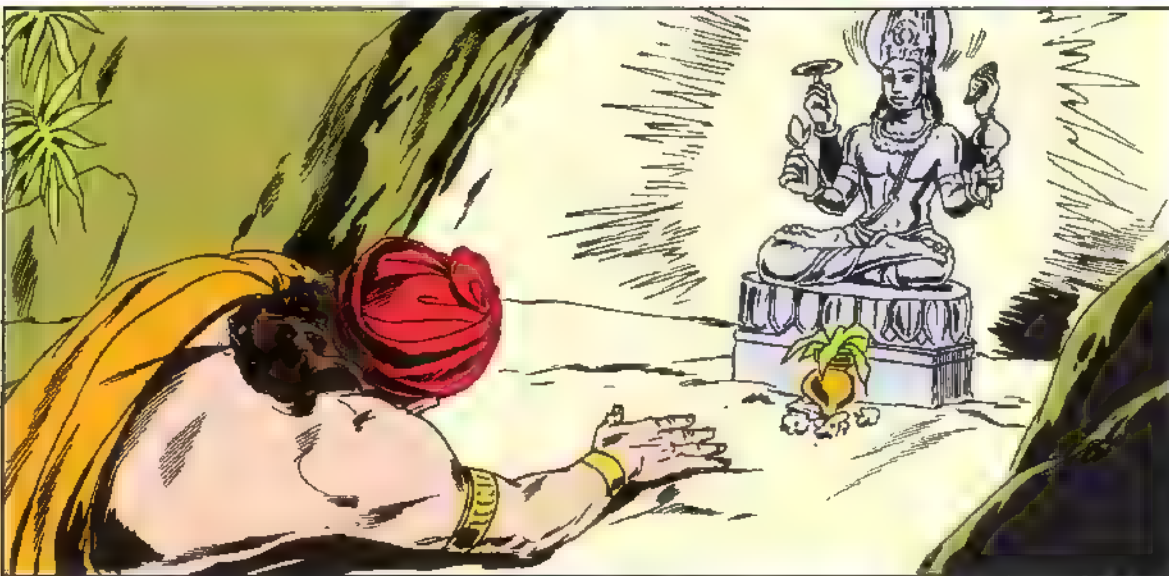
A FEW DAYS LATER —



FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF MUSTARD PLANTS, VIDYAPATI BROKE INTO A RUN...



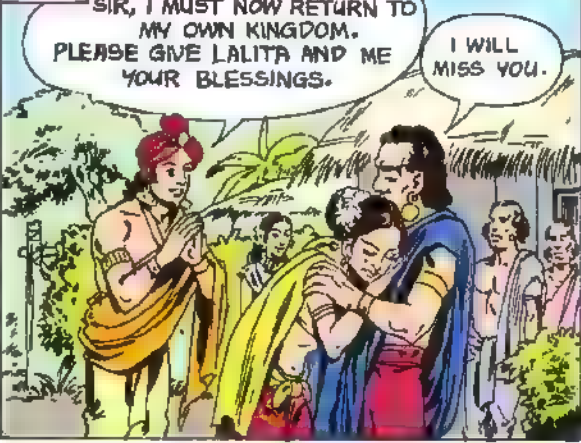
...AND REACHED THE CAVE.



VIDYAPATI HAD FOUND NILAMADHAV FOR HIS KING ! REJOICING, HE RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE AND TOOK LEAVE OF THE SAVARA CHIEF.

SIR, I MUST NOW RETURN TO MY OWN KINGDOM. PLEASE GIVE LALITA AND ME YOUR BLESSINGS.

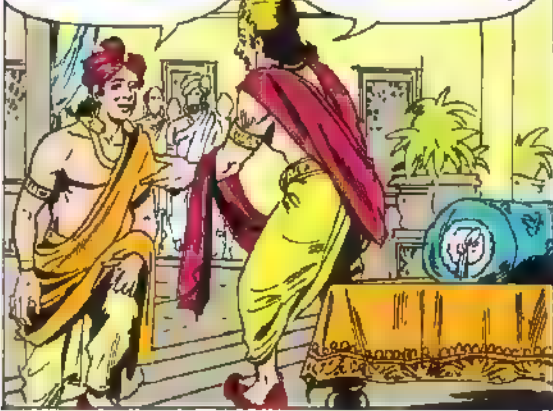
I WILL MISS YOU.



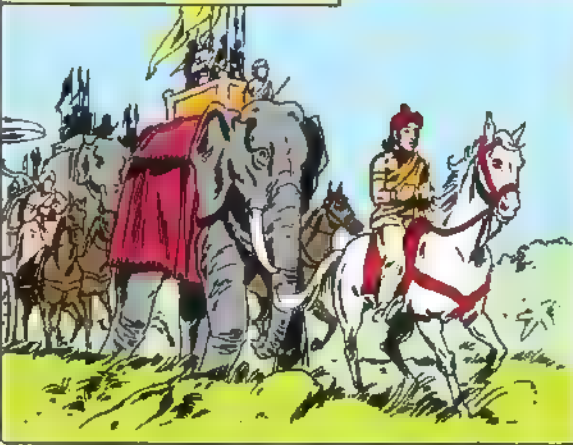
WHEN THEY REACHED UTKAL, VIDYAPATI WENT STRAIGHT TO THE PALACE.

MY LORD, I HAVE FOUND NILACHALA AND NILAMADHAV.

LEAD ME TO NILACHALA AT ONCE, DEAR VIDYAPATI!

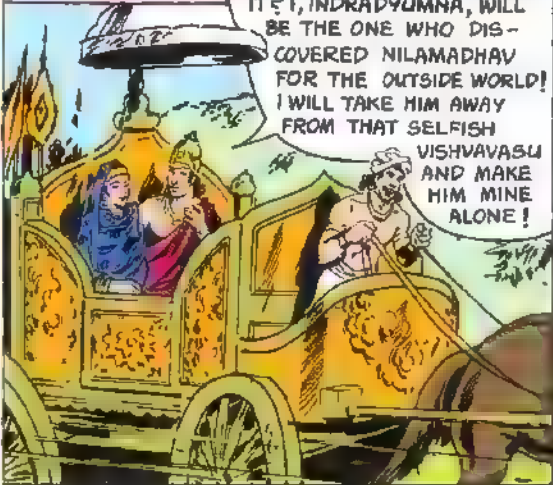


SOON, WITH VIDYAPATI LEADING THE WAY, INDRADYUMNA AND HIS QUEEN, GUNDICHA DEVI, SET OUT FOR NILACHALA.



ON THE WAY —

MY QUEEN, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? I, INDRADYUMNA, WILL BE THE ONE WHO DISCOVERED NILAMADHAV FOR THE OUTSIDE WORLD! I WILL TAKE HIM AWAY FROM THAT SELFISH VISHVAVASU AND MAKE HIM MINE ALONE!



MY LORD — DON'T SPEAK SO! DON'T THINK SO! GOD BELONGS TO EVERYONE.



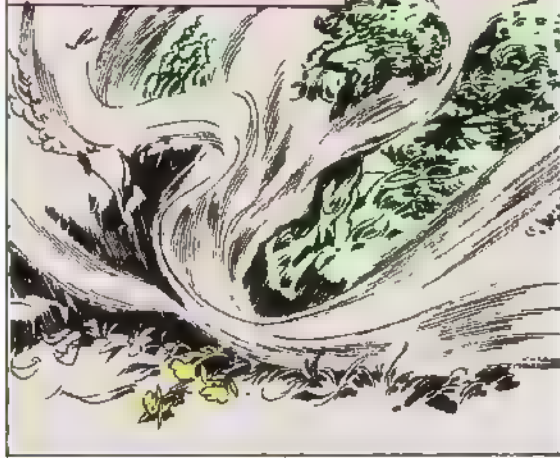
VIDYAPATI HAS TOLD US HOW POSSESSIVE THE SAVARA CHIEFTAIN IS TOWARDS NILAMADHAV. NOW YOU TOO WANT TO MAKE NILAMADHAV YOURS ALONE. BEWARE, MY LORD, OF SUCH THOUGHTS.



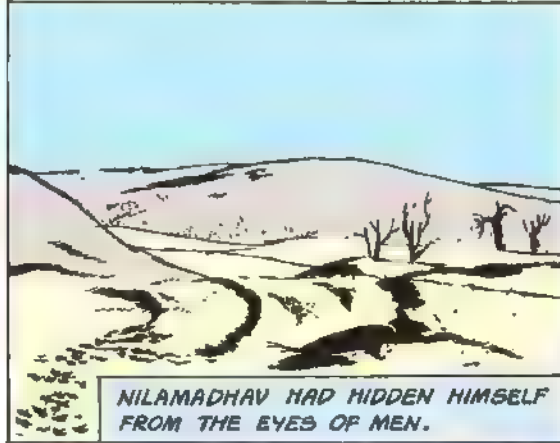
BUT THE DAMAGE WAS DONE. ALL GUNDICHA'S WISE WORDS COULD NOT PREVENT THE EFFECT OF INDRADYUMNA'S UNWORTHY THOUGHTS ON NILAMADHAV. THE GENTLE WINDS THAT TILL THEN HAD CARESSED NILACHALA...



...IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, TURNED INTO A FURIOUS SANDSTORM.

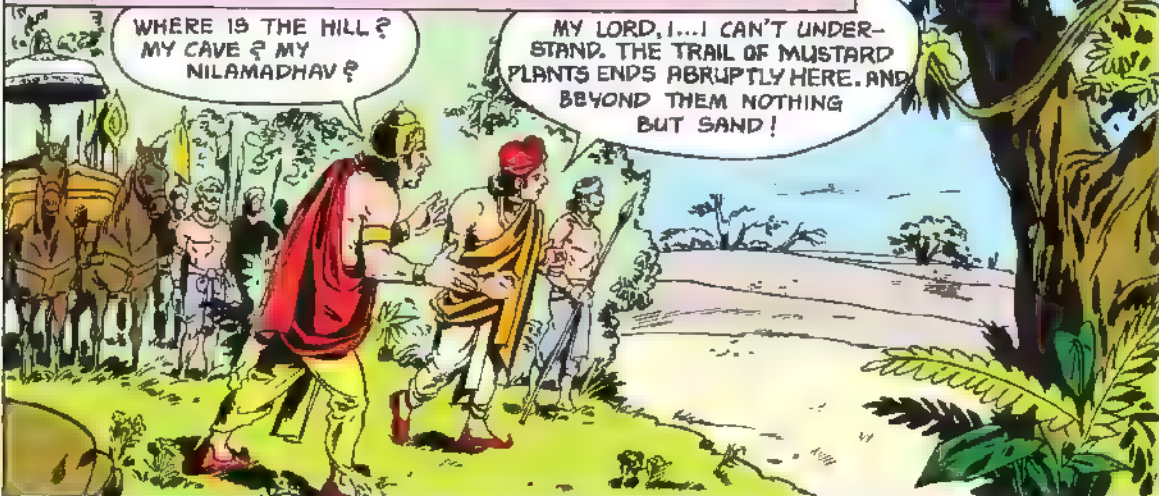


THEN, AS SUDDENLY AS IT HAD BEGUN, THE STORM ABATED. BUT THE HILL, THE CAVE AND EVEN THE MUSTARD PLANTS WITH THE YELLOW FLOWERS HAD VANISHED.



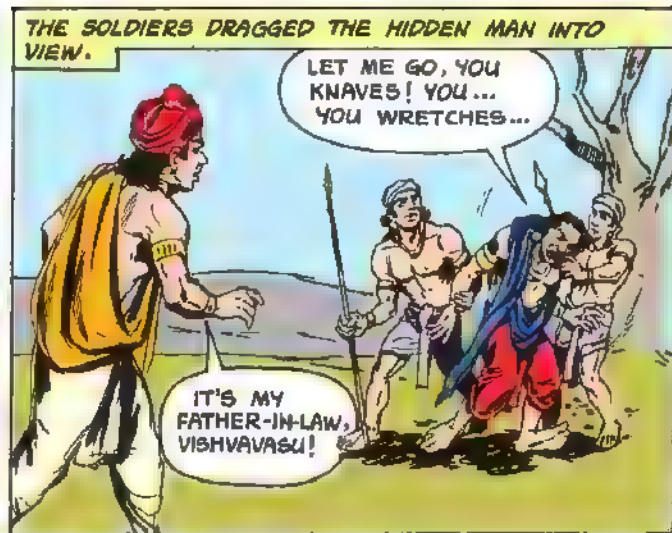
NILAMADHAV HAD HIDDEN HIMSELF FROM THE EYES OF MEN.

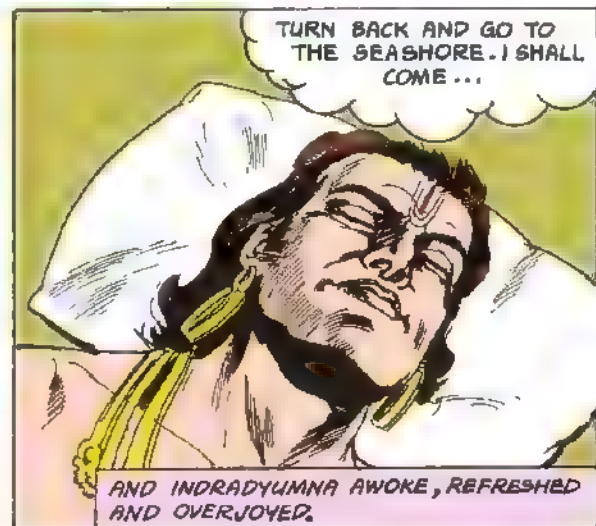
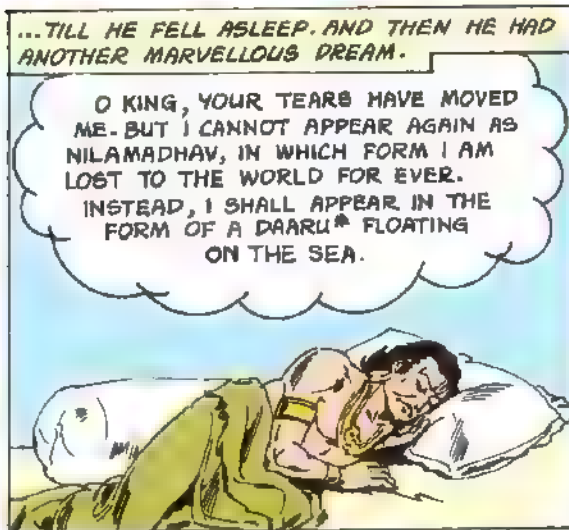
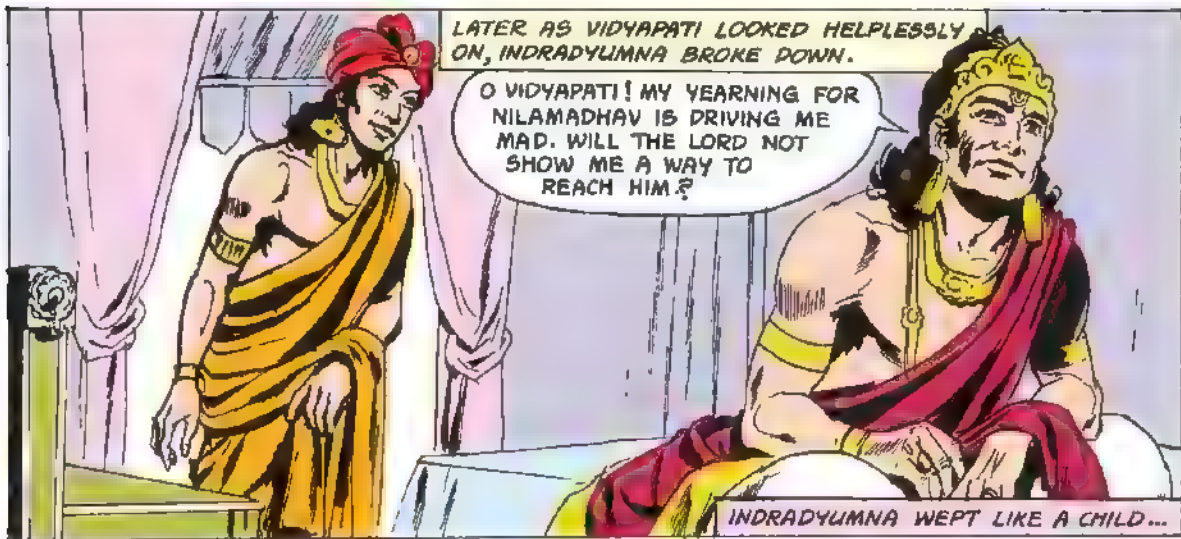
LATER, WHEN INDRADYUMNA AND VIDYAPATI ARRIVED THERE —

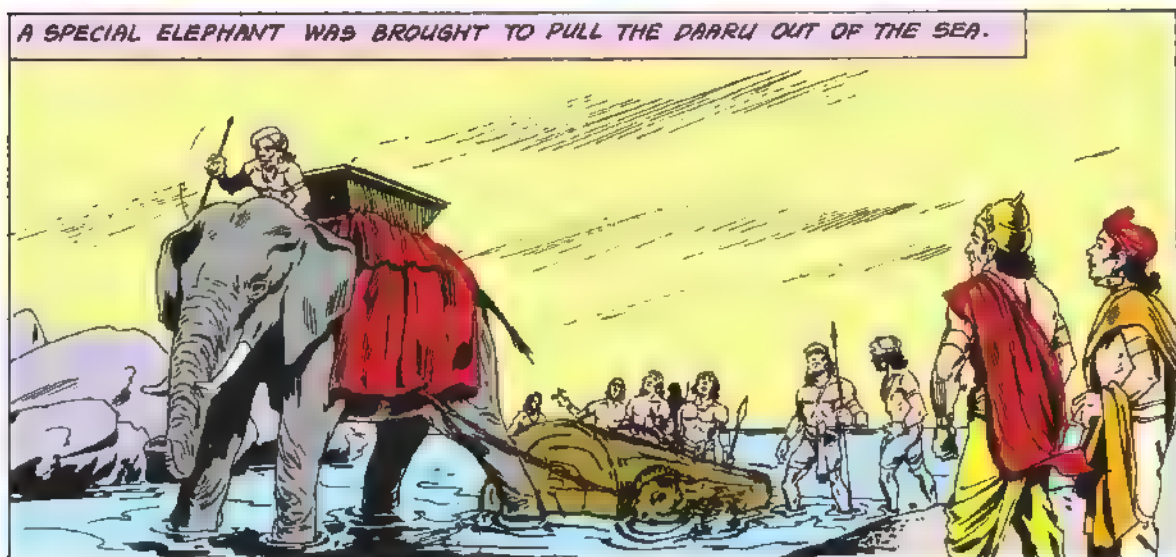
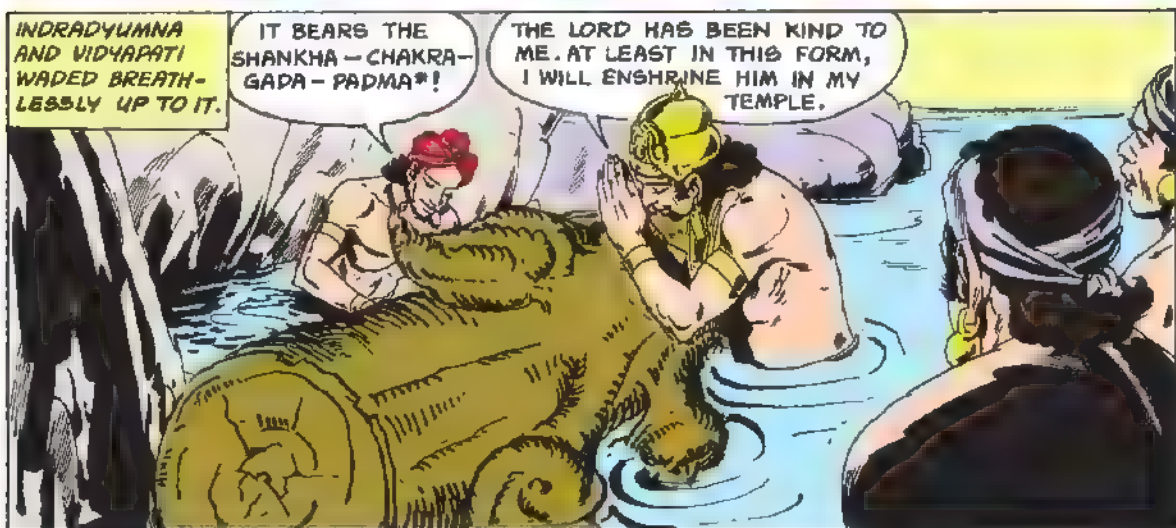
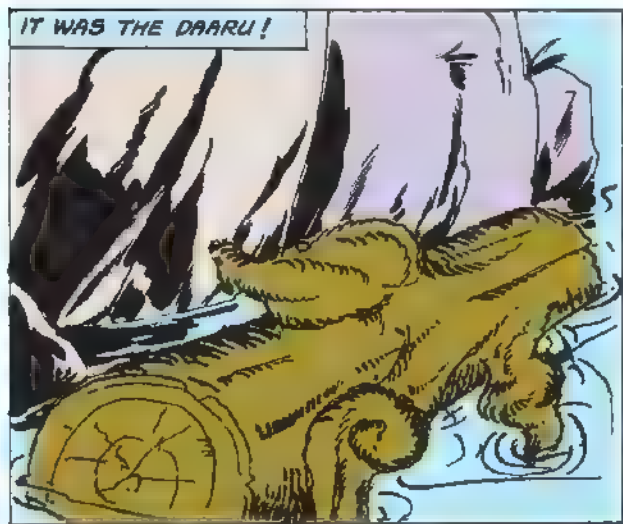
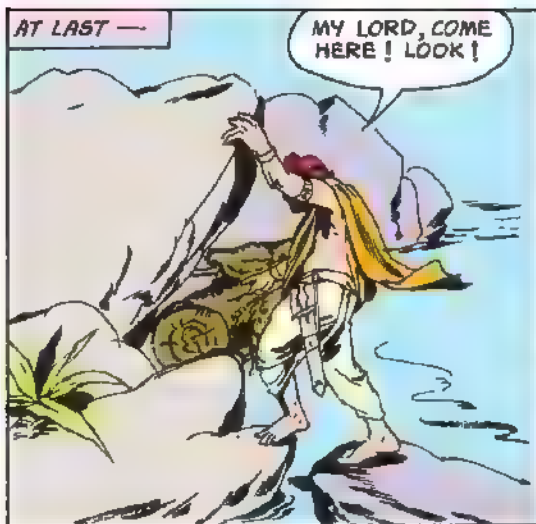


WHERE IS THE HILL?
MY CAVE & MY
NILAMADHAV?

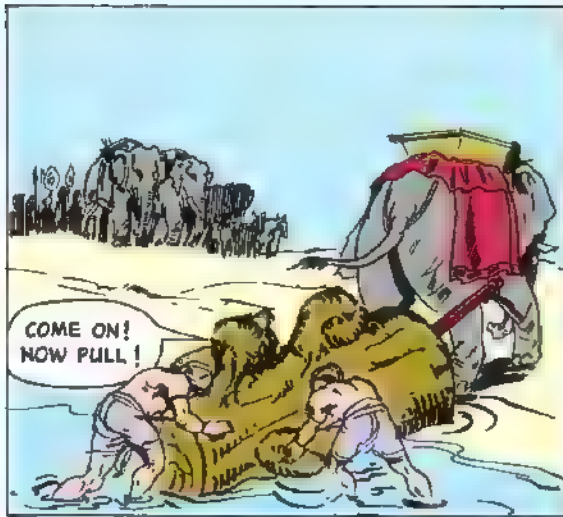
MY LORD, I...I CAN'T UNDER-
STAND. THE TRAIL OF MUSTARD
PLANTS ENDS ABRUPTLY HERE. AND
BEYOND THEM NOTHING
BUT SAND!







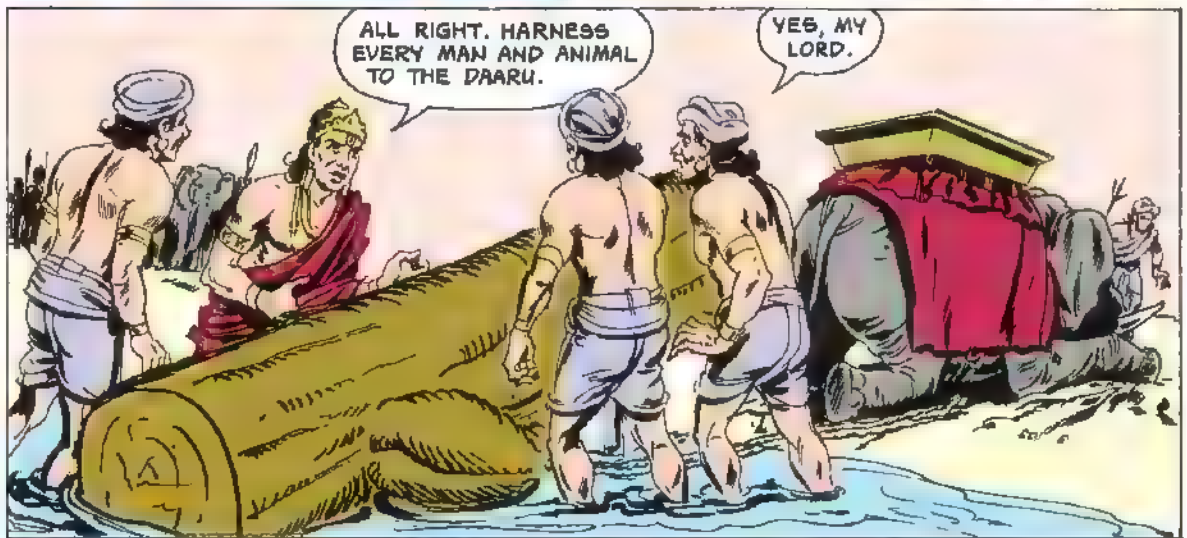
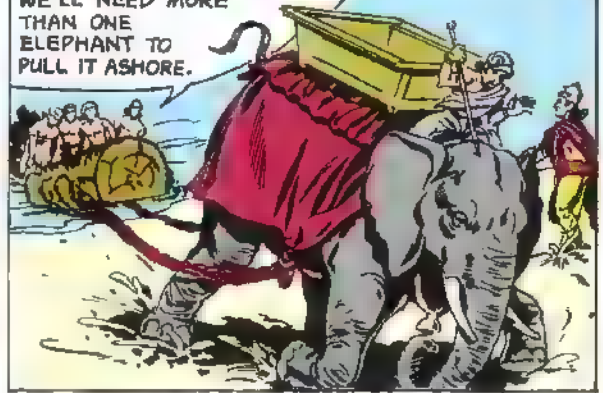
* THE CONCH, WHEEL, MACE AND LOTUS, THE FOUR SYMBOLS OF VISHNU



COME ON!
NOW PULL!

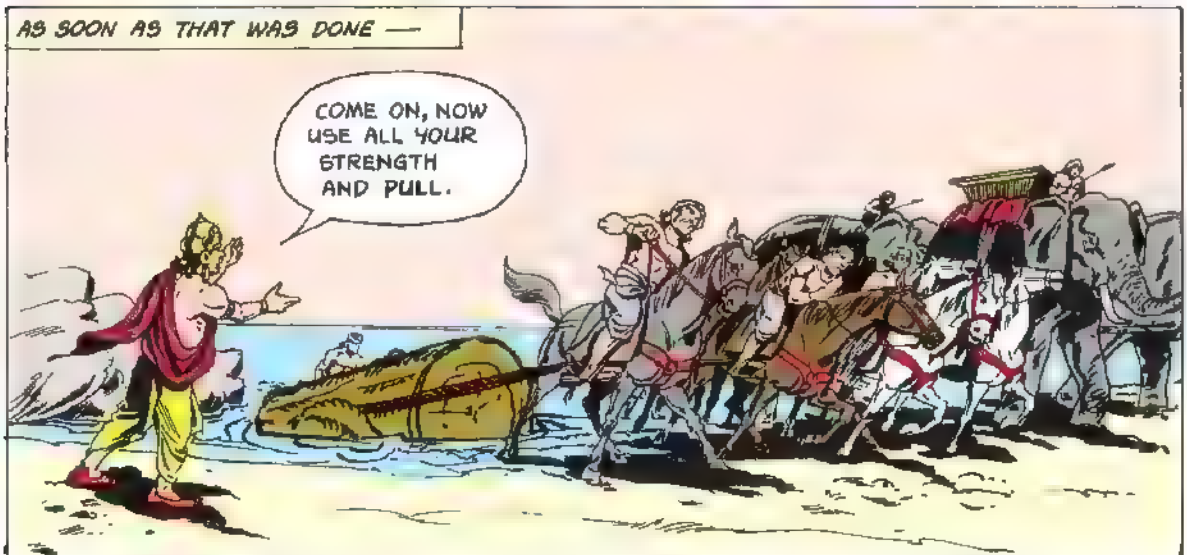
THE ELEPHANT TRIED HARD TO MOVE FORWARD
BUT ONLY SANK TO ITS KNEES WITH THE EFFORT.

MY LORD, THE DAARU HASN'T
MOVED AN INCH. I THINK
WE'LL NEED MORE
THAN ONE
ELEPHANT TO
PULL IT ASHORE.



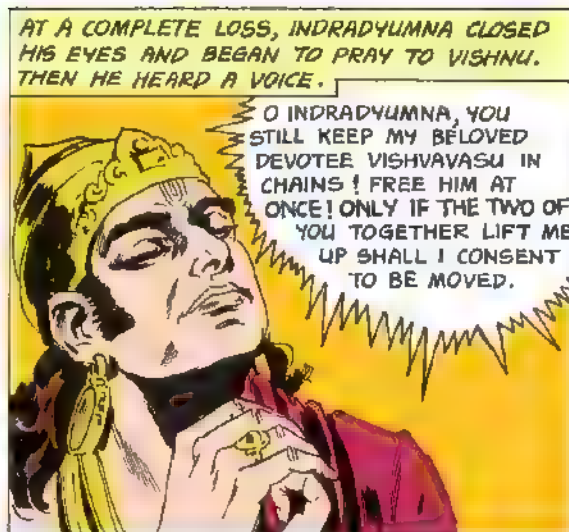
ALL RIGHT. HARNESS
EVERY MAN AND ANIMAL
TO THE DAARU.

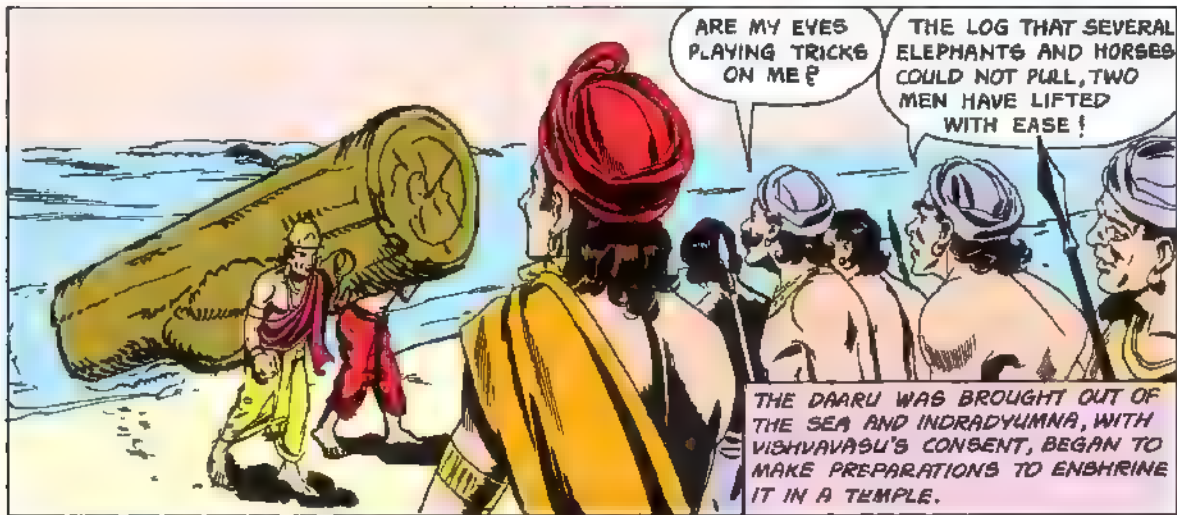
YES, MY
LORD.

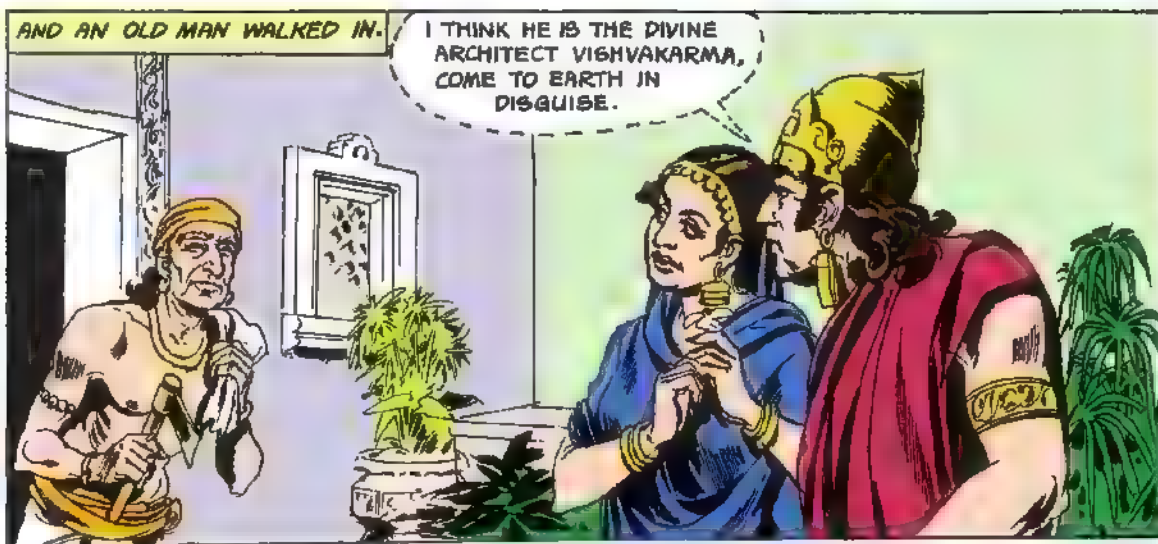


AS SOON AS THAT WAS DONE —

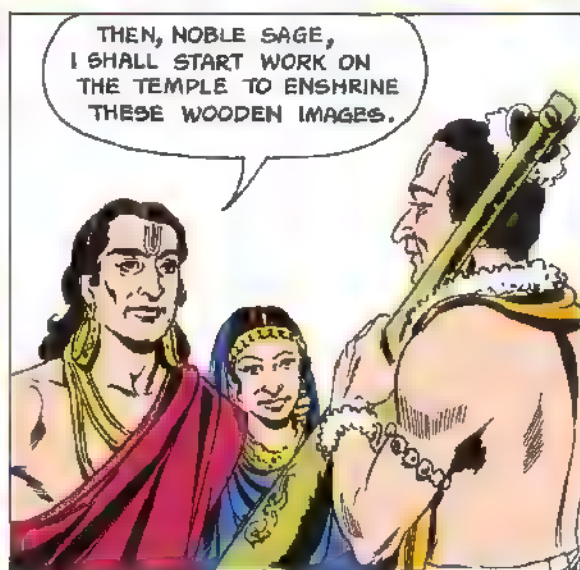
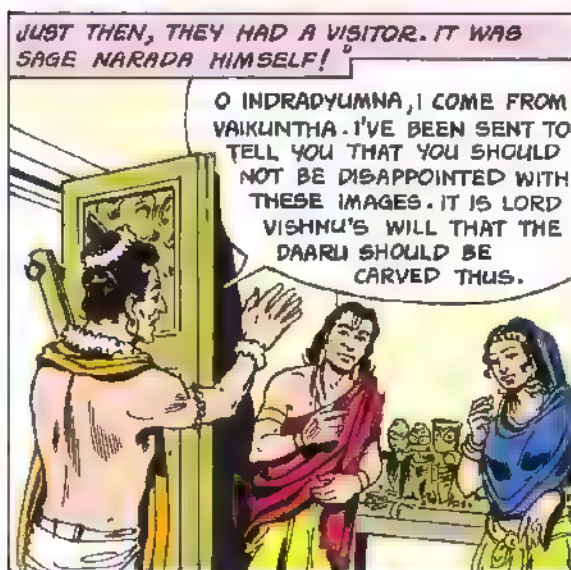
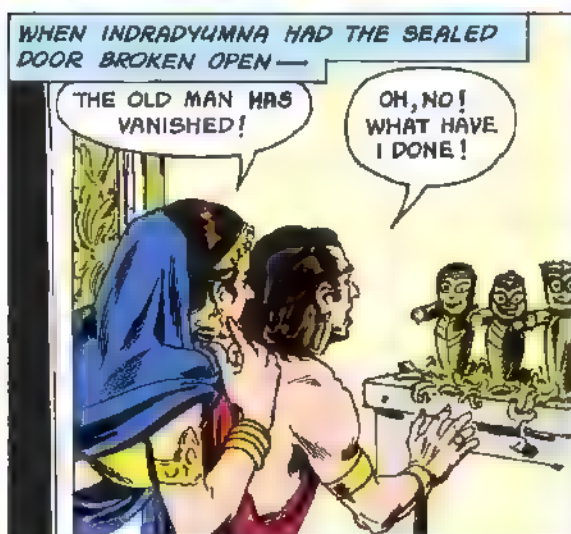
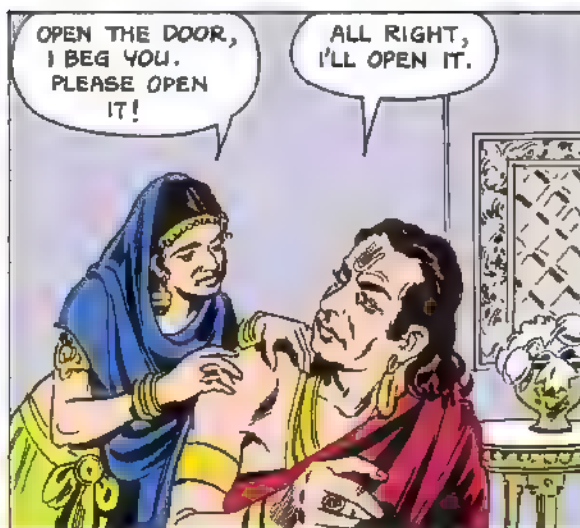
COME ON, NOW
USE ALL YOUR
STRENGTH
AND PULL.



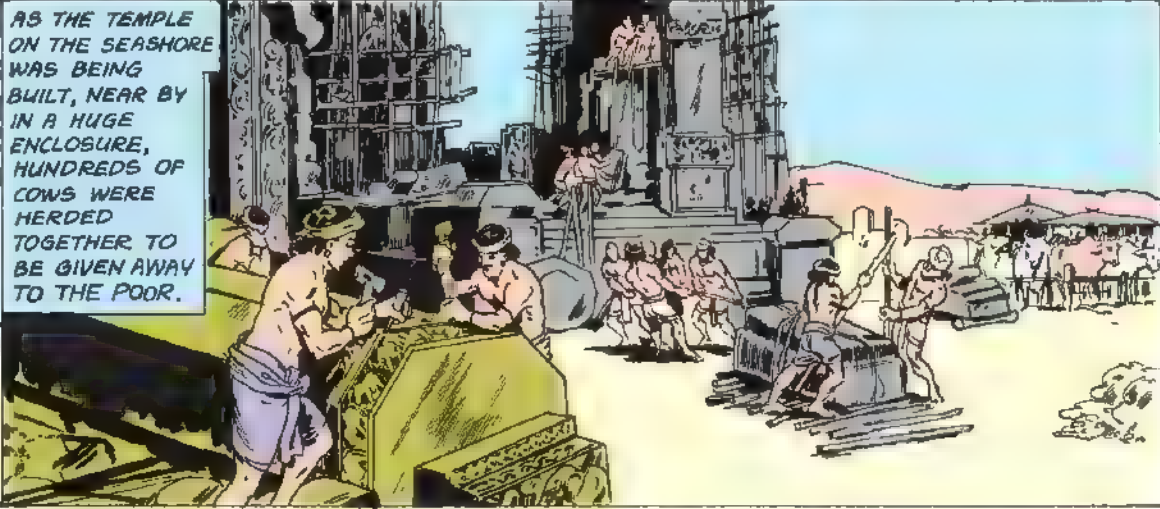




* great altar



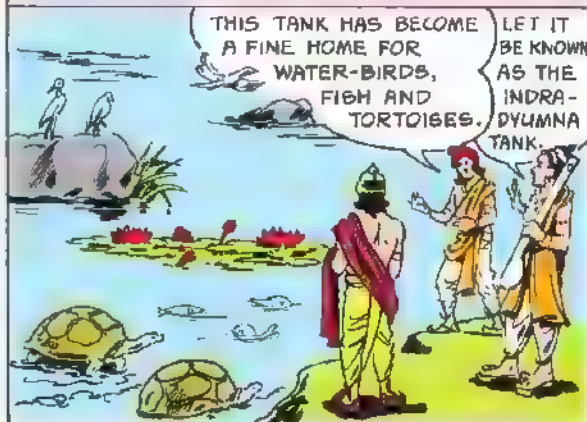
AS THE TEMPLE ON THE SEASHORE WAS BEING BUILT, NEAR BY IN A HUGE ENCLOSURE, HUNDREDS OF COWS WERE HERDED TOGETHER TO BE GIVEN AWAY TO THE POOR.



WHEN THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE WAS ABOUT TO BE COMPLETED AND THE COWS HAD BEEN GIVEN AWAY, A HUGE CRATER, LEFT BY THE IMPACT OF THEIR HOOVES, WAS FOUND IN THE ENCLOSURE.



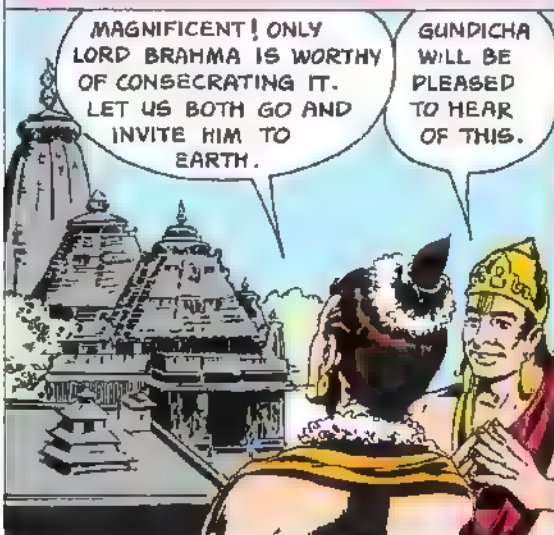
UNDERGROUND STREAMS ROSE TO THE SURFACE AND FED IT WITH CLEAR, SWEET WATER, CREATING A POND.



THIS TANK HAS BECOME A FINE HOME FOR WATER-BIRDS, FISH AND TORTOISES.

LET IT BE KNOWN AS THE INDRA-DYUMNA TANK.

WHEN THE TEMPLE WAS COMPLETED —



MAGNIFICENT! ONLY LORD BRAHMA IS WORTHY OF CONSECRATING IT. LET US BOTH GO AND INVITE HIM TO EARTH.

GUNDICHA WILL BE PLEASED TO HEAR OF THIS.

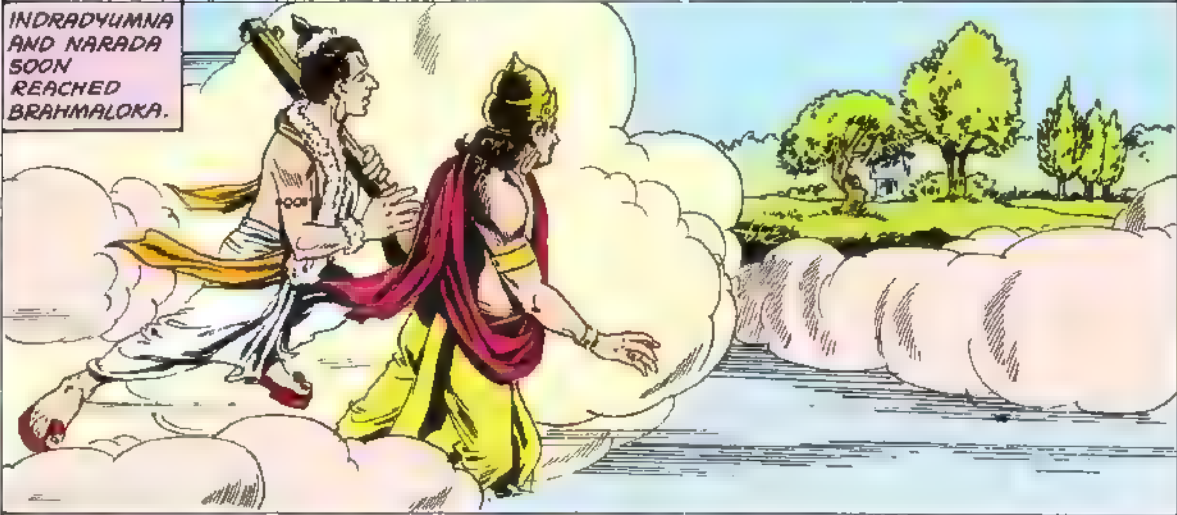
BUT GUNDICHA WAS FAR FROM PLEASED.



MY LORD, YOU SAY SAGE NARADA IS TAKING YOU TO BRAHMALOKA. I AM AFRAID... I FEEL I SHALL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN.

HOW TIMID YOU ARE MY DEAR GUNDICHA! I SHALL BE BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!

INDRADYUMNA
AND NARADA
SOON
REACHED
BRAHMALOKA.



BUT LORD BRAHMA WAS DEEP IN MEDI-
TATION, SO THEY HAD TO WAIT. HOURS
PASSED BY.

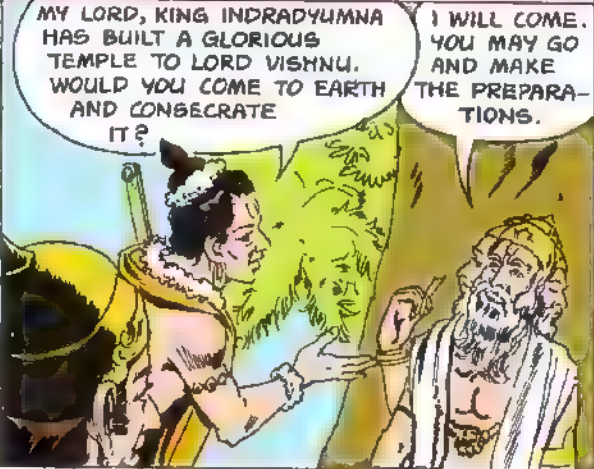
WE HAVE BEEN HERE
A WHOLE DAY! HOW
MUCH LONGER WILL
WE HAVE TO WAIT?



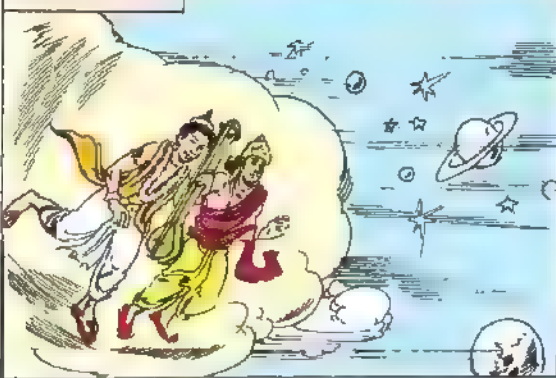
JUST THEN, BRAHMA OPENED HIS EYES.

MY LORD, KING INDRADYUMNA
HAS BUILT A GLORIOUS
TEMPLE TO LORD VISHNU.
WOULD YOU COME TO EARTH
AND CONSECRATE
IT?

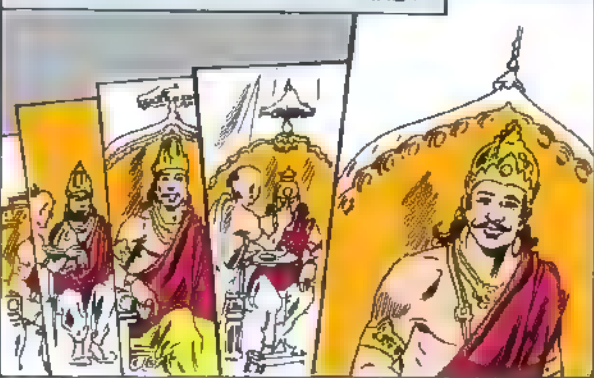
I WILL COME.
YOU MAY GO
AND MAKE
THE PREPARA-
TIONS.



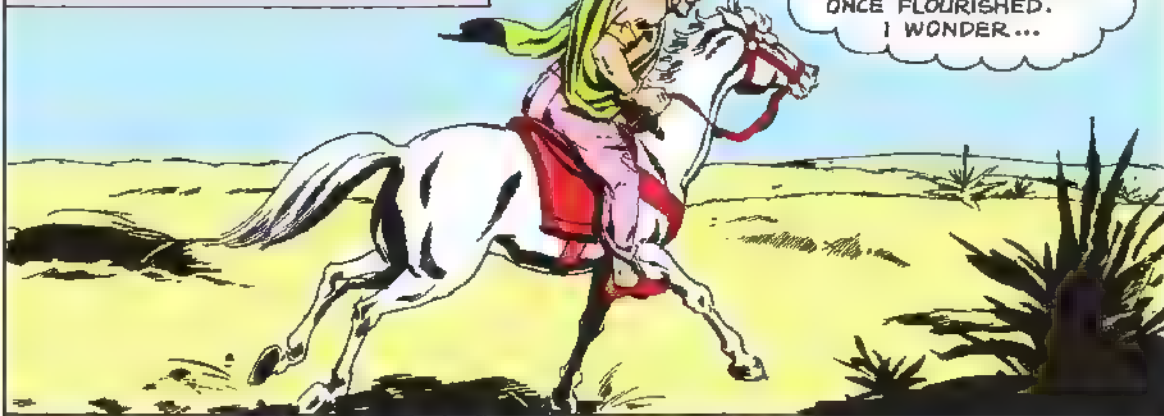
INDRADYUMNA AND NARADA HAD SPENT
ONLY ONE DAY IN BRAHMALOKA. BUT WHAT
THEY FAILED TO REALISE WAS THAT ONE
DAY OF BRAHMA IS EQUAL TO THOUSANDS
OF YEARS ON EARTH! TO THEM IT MIGHT
HAVE SEEMED THAT ONLY A DAY HAD
GONE BY...



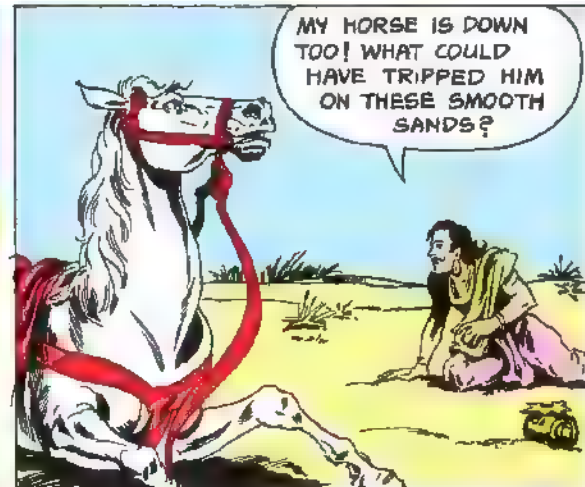
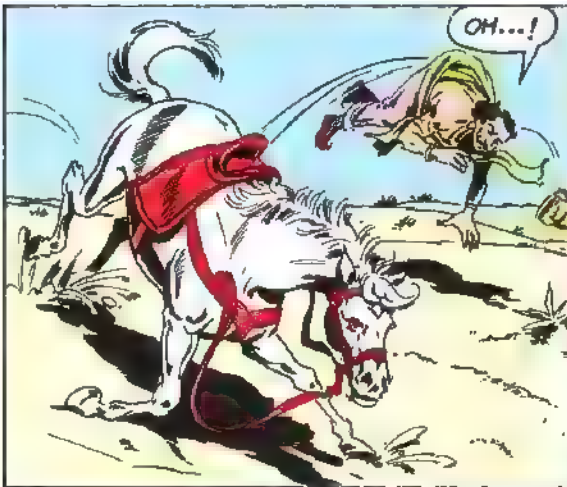
...BUT ON EARTH, MANY, MANY SUMMERS
HAD COME AND GONE. A THOUSAND KINGS
AND DYNASTIES HAD RISEN AND FALLEN!
AND EVEN AS INDRADYUMNA WAS RETURN-
ING TO EARTH, A DIFFERENT KING,
THOUSANDS OF YEARS AFTER HIS TIME,
WAS NOW RULING OVER UTKAL.



THIS KING WAS GALA MADHAV.
ONE DAY AS HE WAS RIDING
ALONG THE SANDS OF A DESERT—



HISTORIANS SAY
THAT UNDER THESE SANDS
AN ANCIENT CIVILISATION
ONCE FLOURISHED.
I WONDER...



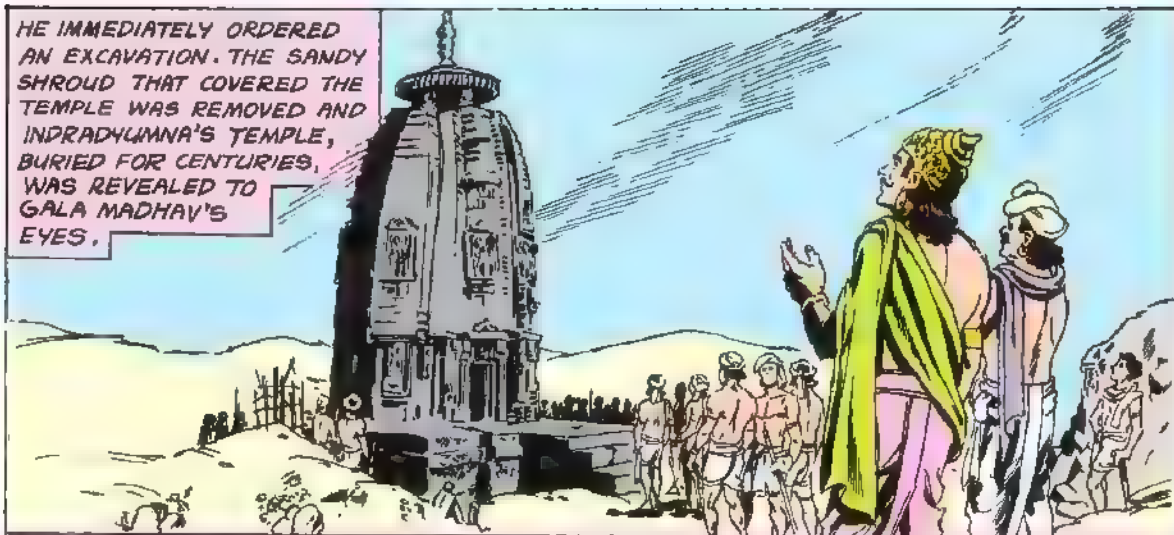
GALA MADHAV BEGAN TO SEARCH THE
GROUND NEAR HIS HORSE. THEN HE SAW
AN OBJECT JUTTING OUT OF THE SAND.



WITH MOUNTING EXCITEMENT GALA MADHAV
BEGAN TO PUSH AWAY THE SAND FROM
AROUND THE PIECE OF CARVING AND SOON—

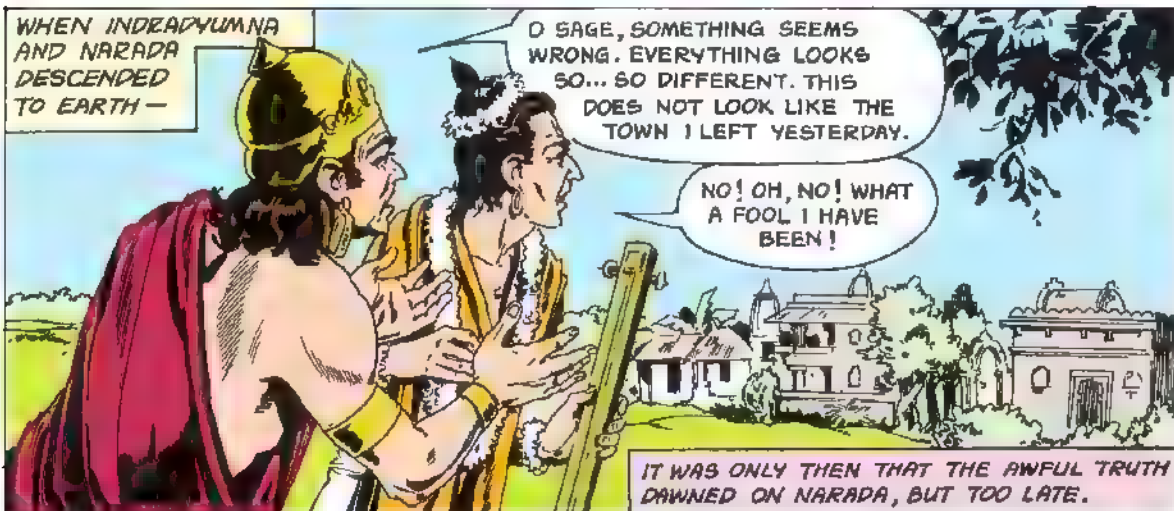


HE IMMEDIATELY ORDERED AN EXCAVATION. THE SANDY SHROUD THAT COVERED THE TEMPLE WAS REMOVED AND INDRADYUMNA'S TEMPLE, BURIED FOR CENTURIES, WAS REVEALED TO GALA MADHAV'S EYES.



GALA MADHAV TOOK OVER THE TEMPLE AND INSTALLED HIS CHOSEN DEITY IN IT.

WHEN INDRADYUMNA AND NARADA DESCENDED TO EARTH —

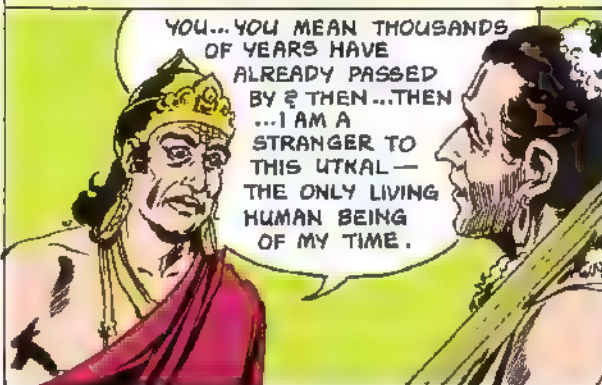


O SAGE, SOMETHING SEEMS WRONG. EVERYTHING LOOKS SO... SO DIFFERENT. THIS DOES NOT LOOK LIKE THE TOWN I LEFT YESTERDAY.

NO! OH, NO! WHAT A FOOL I HAVE BEEN!

IT WAS ONLY THEN THAT THE AWFUL TRUTH DAWNED ON NARADA, BUT TOO LATE.

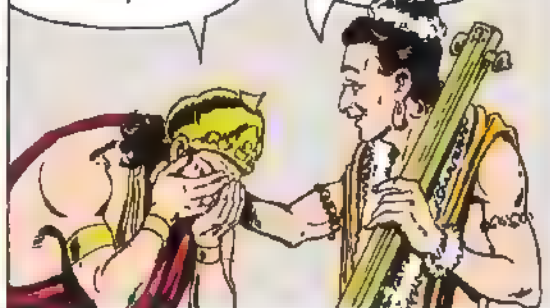
GENTLY HE BROKE IT TO INDRADYUMNA, EXPLAINING THE VAST DIFFERENCE IN TIME BETWEEN BRAHMALOKA AND EARTH. INDRADYUMNA WAS HORRIFIED.



YOU... YOU MEAN THOUSANDS OF YEARS HAVE ALREADY PASSED BY? THEN... THEN ... I AM A STRANGER TO THIS UTKAL — THE ONLY LIVING HUMAN BEING OF MY TIME.

MY GUNDICHA MUST BE DEAD; VIDYAPATI AND MY FRIEND VIGHVAVASU MUST BE GONE TOO. HOW UNFORTUNATE I AM!

O KING, DO NOT GRIEVE. HUMAN BEINGS PASS ON, BUT A TEMPLE STANDS THE TEST OF TIME. DEDICATE YOUR LIFE NOW TO YOUR TEMPLE.



INDRADYUMNA AND NARADA BEGAN TO SEARCH FOR THE TEMPLE. THEY SOON FOUND IT.



THERE IT IS ! BUT... SOME WORSHIP IS ALREADY GOING ON INSIDE...

COME ON. WE'LL GO IN AND FIND OUT.

STRUGGLING PAST THE GUARDS AT THE DOOR, THEY RUSHED INTO THE SANCTUM AND THERE —



OH, NO! THE TEMPLE I BUILT WITH SO MUCH LOVE HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY SOMEBODY ELSE!

SILENCE ! HOW DARE YOU INTERRUPT THE ROYAL WORSHIP OF GALA MADHAV, KING OF UTKAL ! WHO ARE YOU ?

I, INDRADYUMNA, AM THE KING OF UTKAL. AND THIS TEMPLE IS MINE!

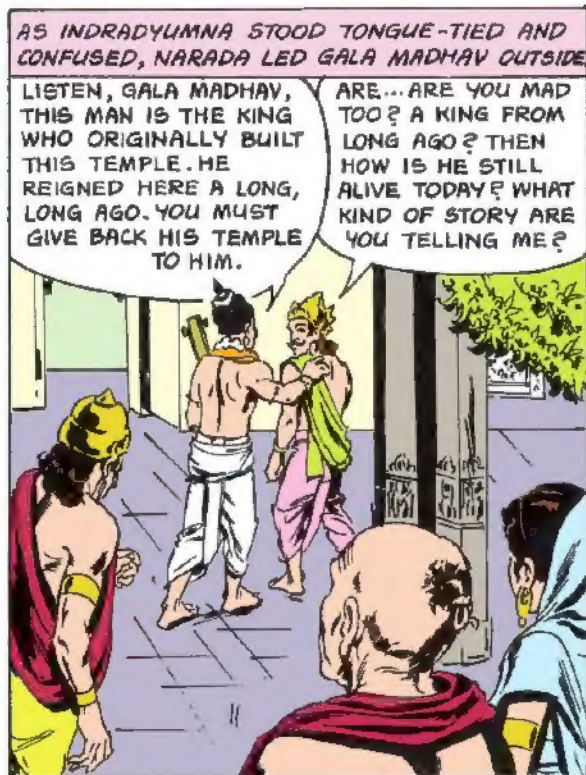
OH ! SO WE HAVE A MADMAN HERE!

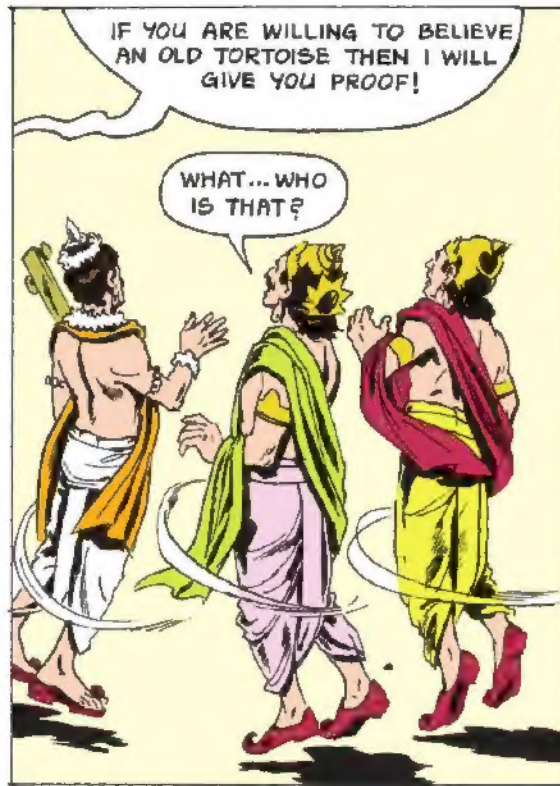


AS INDRADYUMNA STOOD TONGUE-TIED AND CONFUSED, NARADA LED GALA MADHAV OUTSIDE

LISTEN, GALA MADHAV, THIS MAN IS THE KING WHO ORIGINALLY BUILT THIS TEMPLE. HE REIGNED HERE A LONG, LONG AGO. YOU MUST GIVE BACK HIS TEMPLE TO HIM.

ARE... ARE YOU MAD TOO ? A KING FROM LONG AGO ? THEN HOW IS HE STILL ALIVE TODAY ? WHAT KIND OF STORY ARE YOU TELLING ME ?





THE TEMPLE NOW HIS, INDRADYUMNA BEGAN TO SEARCH FOR THE THREE IMAGES. THEY TOO HAD BEEN BURIED AND FORGOTTEN. BUT SOON —



THERE THEY ARE! RIGHT ON THE MAHAVEDI WHERE VISHVA-KARMA LEFT THEM!

THE IMAGES WERE ENSHRINED IN THE TEMPLE, AND BRAHMA PERFORMED THE PRANAPRATISHTHA POOJA*. LATER—



INDRADYUMNA, I WISH TO GRANT YOU A BOON. ASK ANYTHING OF ME.

MY LORD, LET NO ONE CLAIM THIS TEMPLE AS HIS AFTER I DIE. HENCEFORTH, THIS TEMPLE SHALL BELONG TO ALL MANKIND.

BRAHMA WAS VERY PLEASED WITH INDRADYUMNA'S SELFLESS GESTURE.

NOBLE KING, YOUR FAME WILL LIVE ON! AS YOU HAVE GIVEN OVER THIS TEMPLE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, IT SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE SHRINE OF "JAGANNATHA"—LORD OF THE UNIVERSE.



THAT IS HOW THE DEITY IN THE TEMPLE BY THE SEA AT PURI CAME TO BE KNOWN AS "JAGANNATHA".

INDRADYUMNA, YOU HAVE GONE THROUGH MUCH IN YOUR DEVOTION TO NILAMADHAV. YOU HAVE EARNED A PLACE IN HEAVEN.

I AM BLESSED, MY LORD.



INDRADYUMNA IS REMEMBERED IN ORISSA TO THIS DAY. THOSE WHO HELPED HIM IN HIS EFFORTS ARE NOT FORGOTTEN EITHER. MEMORIES OF GUNDICHA DEVI, VIDYAPATI, LALITA AND VISHVAVASU STILL LIVE ON IN THE MAGNIFICENT CAR FESTIVAL OF JAGANNATHA — THE RATHA YATRA.

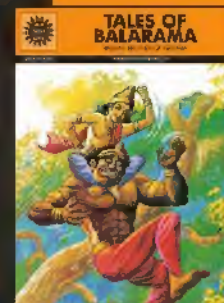
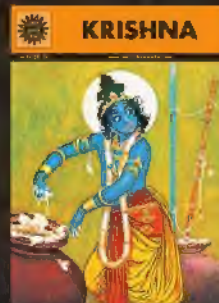
* INSTALLATION CEREMONY

JAGANNATHA OF PURI

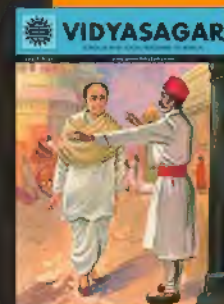
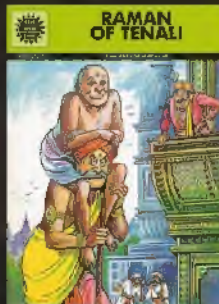
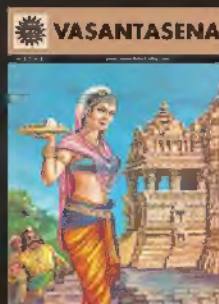
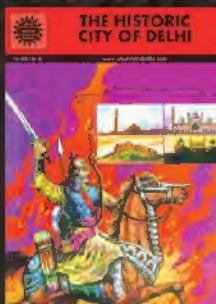
King Indradyumna of Utkal had only one wish – to be able to build a temple that would be the most beautiful in the world. His quest was for the image of the blue-coloured Krishna or Nilamadhav. The king came very close to achieving his goal but his pride and arrogance snatched it away from him leaving him groping once more in the dark. Contained in this Amar Chitra Katha is the legend behind the temple of Jagannathapuri in Orissa and the images enshrined in it.

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